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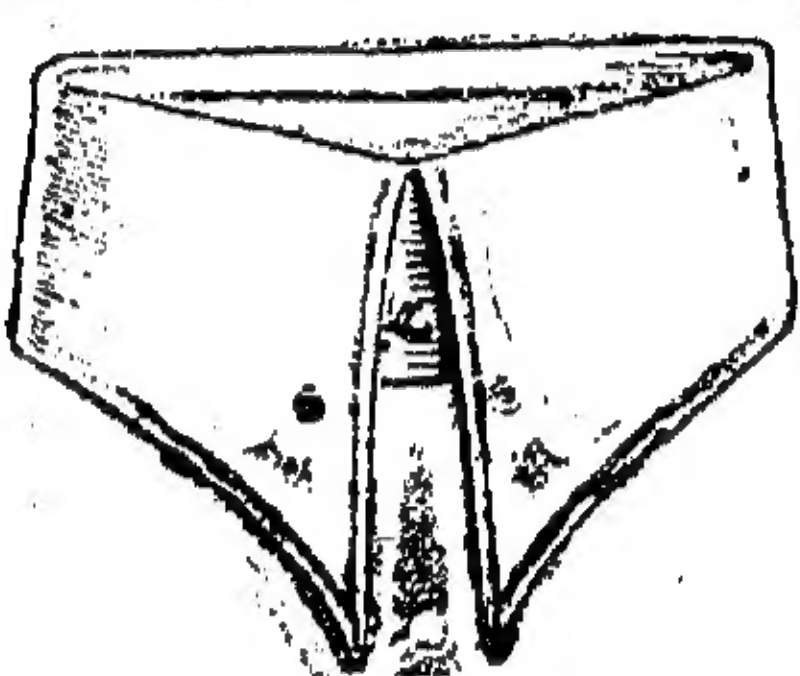
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THE CENSORSHIP.

The publication of the Report of the Mesopotamia Commission, following upon the Dardanelles disclosures, must convince the country that it is at any rate learning all that can possibly be learned. On the other hand, there is overwhelming evidence to show that much news of an encouraging character is still suppressed. In another column we publish a statement by a Cape Town correspondent, illustrating how the censorship works in this respect. The transport *Tyndareus* struck a mine off Cape Agulhas in circumstances which are now familiar. The incident occurred on the night of February 9th, and immediately afterwards at Cape Town collected particulars with a view to informing the world of one of the most glorious incidents of the war. A battalion of the Middlesex Regiment was on board. The men were paraded, and, although it was believed that at any moment the vessel might sink, these upholders of the high tradition of the "Die Hards" maintained perfect discipline. That constituted a story which it would have done the people of the Empire good to read. But no! The censorship intervened. The narrative of this splendid demonstration of British grit and coolness reached London three or four days later and was pigeon-holed. For six weeks the embargo on publication continued. At last, on the evening of March 28th, the Press Bureau issued a statement which it had received, presumably, from one of the Government departments. It was not until this official and inadequate story, after so long a delay, had been put in circulation that the unofficial telegrams were released—too late to be of commercial value. It was only then, moreover, that the country was allowed to learn of the appropriate message of praise which the King had sent to the Cape in the middle of February. It may well be asked why this policy of silence was enforced. Did it serve any military object? Was it vital that information, which could be issued at the end of March without danger to national interests, should be suppressed when it was fresh and would have made an electric appeal to the hearts of the people of the Empire? Officialdom in its blindness smothered a page of history, and the public has never read those telling personal narratives which convey the most lasting impression, and upon which the historian must rely in writing a record which will last for all time.

There is something radically wrong in the censorship. We do not pause to criticise the Press Bureau, of which so much is heard from those who are unfamiliar with the composite organisation controlling war news. The Press Bureau is little more than the vehicle through which official news is issued and a sieve through which other and unofficial intelligence passes. It is not, as a rule, responsible for the character of official communications. It carries out a number of regulations which have been drawn up by various authorities from time to time and subjected to frequent amendment. They are now so confusing as to be hardly intelligible; no principle underlies them. We do not doubt that the censors endeavour to the best of their ability to interpret the composite and conflicting code which is imposed upon them. If we are to probe the trouble to its source, we fear that we must go behind the Press Bureau. The change which is needed is a change of spirit. When the present Government came into office the assurance was given that the whole truth about the war would be disclosed. The tendency for some months past has been to permit depressing news to filter out and to suppress items which would encourage the nation. For instance, the nation might assume that in the submarine war we are mainly on the defensive, the other side men of the navy being like shorn lambs going to the slaughter. From time to time depressing stories are issued from official sources of men, and sometimes women, compelled to support life on the high seas in small boats with scanty food. Such incidents may convict the Germans of inhumanity, but they are hardly calculated to inspire merchant seamen or to give to the population generally an adequate conception of the splendid fight which is being put up against the bacillus of the sea. The other side of the picture, if suppressed, if the official veto were not in force correspondents on the coast would supply what the Americans would describe as "live stories" of the courageous manner in which the officers and men of the merchant navy are acting; no individual ships need be mentioned; names of officers and men need appear; but the nation would gain a better appreciation of the manner in which these seamen are maintaining the highest national traditions. They are not always fighting; they hit back. Or, again, we may turn to our anonymous correspondents. It is only very occasionally that the veil is lifted. Sir Douglas Haig's last despatch, if it had not been for the censorship, might have constituted an epic of British courage, resource, and endurance. Yesterday we were not allowed to know where or when the eight Victoria Crosses were won. It has only now leaked out that when airship Z 49 was brought down on June 17th three of the crew were taken prisoners, and are still living. It is only from German sources that we know of prisoners being taken from submarines.

These remarks illustrate the spirit in which the censorship is being worked. It is imagined that the Germans do not know how British merchant seamen are standing up against piracy? They do not want neutrals to gain that knowledge, and we are conniving at secrecy. Will it be suggested that they are ignorant of the fine competency which is being exhibited by the officers and men of our patrols? Is there any reason for concluding that they do not know where practically every regiment in the British Army is fighting? What would it profit them if they found out when and where a V.C. was gained? It is true that the secret of war is secrecy. But the circumstances in which it is necessary to preserve secrecy after an event has occurred are exceptional. What has the censorship ever done to give Allies and neutrals a correct appreciation of the marvels which this country has achieved and of the manner in which its manhood has acquitted itself? It was not until the British Mission went to the United States that the

(Continued at foot of next column.)

PATHFINDING IN THE AIR

[BY WAR PILOT.]

The Air is a fine pathway for travel. It has its faults, but there it is; no obstructions bar the way. The "surface" is not uniformly good; there are "bumps" to throw you 50 feet up and down, but there are no "blind corners." There are no traps that a skilful pilot cannot elude; and below, stretched out, is the well-marked land for you to follow. There are woods and roads, and railways of which you must never quite lose sight, no matter what you are doing. Landmarks are easy to follow when you have learned to read them, but very confusing when you have not. A compass is a snare unless you have specialised in its use. The ground in your guide, and from the ground to the map you look when you need to pick up your route.

In the winter in France the marks are easy to follow. Roads and rails show up like dark lines through the snow, and the "strade" of the shelling turns the earth up all brown, as if a giant hand had swept away the snow. In the summer it is not so clear, but you know your country as you know your hand, and the long straight roads cannot deceive you.

You know where your pet guns lie and you snatch a glance at their flashes. You know where the nests of "Archie" are. These things are your landmarks. Round over the lines by A. and dodge like fury to fool the Archie gunners below. Round over B. railway station to count the trains and see the piles of stores; a glance at the big gun in C. wood.

Then a flash over beyond D. catches your eye. It is now. It is a newly placed gun. The colour of the flash gives a hint of its size.

You sway and rock over towards it, pretending to be hanging over something else, but trying to catch the flash again. And at the same time you watch warily against attack on your tail.

Then, in a moment, there is the fatal rattle. A watching Hun has approached unseen out of a cloud just above, while you tried to catch that flash. He is there to protect that gun.

The fight swings and reels; every trick comes into play, and still you must remember the ground below and watch where you are going. Never must the pilot forget the ground.

The Hun may try to lead you into a nest of Arches or away deep over the line into other snarls... or you may strike another air current that will carry you out of your radius of action and leave you to settle down with empty petrol tanks far across his lines.

You see him fall, but perhaps he was led you over strange country, and gathering clouds are blotting your view. What then is to guide you? The general direction which the compass can point; there is the estimate you can make of the speed and direction of the wind.

But, more than all, there is your training and experience and that unconscious watching of direction that comes with experience.

You turn and head for home. Soon the familiar landmarks will come into sight; the sheds can be reached if petrol holds out.

But an inexperienced pilot over strange country is like a plainstain in a trackless forest. He wanders in circles, though the marks are there to guide him if he could but use them.

VALUE OF NEWSPAPERS.

The national value of newspapers in war time was emphasised by Mr. Kellie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, in a speech at Luton recently.

Referring to the suspicion entertained by many trade unionists that dilution on private work would not cease at the end of the war, he said that much as he regretted the suspicion he was not altogether surprised at it.

The proceedings in the House of Commons on the Dilution Bill were not fully reported in the Press, he added, so that the Government's case for the Bill was only imperfectly brought before the nation.

"The Government have, in many respects, suffered from the limitations which the shortage of paper has placed on the space which the Press is able to devote to these large questions."

American people obtained any comprehension of what this country had done and is doing. Why was that? The censorship had cut out the cables, which, intelligently used, should have proved a powerful reinforcement of the Allied cause. We have dwelt too much upon the enemy's illegalities and inhumanities; we have let the world know too little of what we have done to punish and defeat him. To take a very recent illustration of the censorship. What was the official attitude towards the arrival of the American destroyers in our waters? It was only after some delay that the intelligence was released. We believe, however, that by this time the censorship has learnt that its methods do not commend themselves to the naval and military authorities in the United States. We are convinced that the time has come when the control exercised over the issue of news should be the subject of investigation, and the case of the *Tyndareus* might serve as the beginning of an inquiry. Whether the matter can be dealt by the Admiralty, War Office, and Press Committee, or whether it should be the subject of consideration by the War Cabinet is a matter of detail, though we are inclined to think that the subject demands the most authoritative treatment. Has not the time come—is it not indeed overdue—when the balance might be readjusted? Are we to go on raking over the ashes, ignoring, to a large extent, the great fire of patriotism which has blazed up in this country and the glories which have come to us in these days? Must the war continue to be anonymous, the impersonal note consistently preserved, except when some officer has fallen or some politician has committed an error of commission or omission? This is a war in which the whole nation is engaged, and we plead that the news from day to day shall give a more correct reflection of what the nation is doing.—Daily Telegraph.

THE BALKANS OUTPOST.

[BY H. H. WAKEFIELD.]

It was about five o'clock on a boiling afternoon. The hill held by Lieutenant Smith's detachment was part of the outpost line of the Struma front. Before it the maize fields, fluttering in the heat, led the eye to where the hills rose abruptly, behind which was Bulgaria. On a hillside right in front he could just see the roots of trees sparkling in the glare. Beyond, the thin shining line of the Struma wound away to the north. "Hill No. 30 and so" marked the place where the reeds gave way to the maize. The mosquitoes, which haunted it were popularly supposed to be the largest in the world.

High above, the vulture on motionless pines was wheeling in long lazy circles. Over all was the drowsy, brooding hum of great heat. The occasional "kump" of a heavy shell came from the north, otherwise only the rustling of the reeds broke the heavy silence. There was no natural shade on the hill. Smith and fixed up a small and inadequate sun-shelter over a big rock, which cast a long sharp blessed shadow. "The shadow of a great rock in a weary land." The man who wrote that knew what he was talking about, thought Smith. "Lord it is a weary land; these vultures and these flies," he banged his hand down on the insects which were devouring his knees. "—are getting on my nerves. Thank heavens, we're relieved to-morrow."

He pushed back his helmet, swung round his big telescope on its rest and, for the hundredth time searched in turn the three straggling villages which broke the monotonous sickly green of the foreground. Like all their kind they fitted so deftly into their surroundings, that though they were only three miles away, they were almost invisible. The Bulgars were more or less in possession of them, but Smith had never succeeded in detecting a sign of life in any of them. He was just finishing his inspection of one when a shot rang out, apparently from a small clump of trees about a mile away, a little ones in the maize. Smith swung his telescope quickly on to the spot.

He had three standing pots of three men each at different points guarding his front. Their orders were to fire one round if the enemy were sighted, then three more if they were in force. If pressed, they were to retire on to the hill. The signal for recall was four shots from Smith's revolver. A moment later another shot was fired from a tiny hill a mile half right, and then three more from both points. "Hullo!" muttered Smith, "that sounds rather like it." Then he picked out a group of three men running rapidly. Suddenly a machine-gun tapped out, and the three men dropped into the maize, whether hit or not he couldn't see.

"Get the Hells going, sergeant," he said, "and get into touch with the bridge. Tell them we look like being attacked. There is half a battalion there and a hundred cyclists. Tell them we want reinforcing. I'll get the others in."

He picked up his revolver and fired four shots. There was a shallow half-moon trench dug round the crest of the hill. Smith got his thirty men in there, told them to fill their magazines and keep down. Then he went back to his telescope. He took it off the stand and lay down, but he found it was too heavy to keep steady without a rest, so put it down and took out his glasses. He picked out two of his pots, they were joggling back and should be in in ten minutes, so that was all right. Now, where were the Bulgars? As if in answer to his question a sudden flight of what sounded like incredibly angry high velocity bees droned past him; something hit the ground almost beside him, spirited up a little dust and hummed fiercely away towards the river. Then men, who had been taking little trouble to keep under cover, crouched down suddenly, all but one, who spun round quickly, coughed and fell flat. Smith turned on them angrily.

"Keep down, will you! Corporal, see those men keep their heads down. Put your sights to 600 and wait. Now Corporal, you see that path," he pointed to his left front; "if anyone tries to cross it, open fire at once; they are certain to try and get round us between there and the reeds and they must be stopped."

The bullets were coming faster now, so he jumped down into the trench. As he did so the Sergeant came up. "I've got the Brigade, sir; they're sending the cyclists at once and a company of the Infantry are coming on as quickly as possible."

"Right," answered Smith. "Hullo! there they are."

A large party of men suddenly appeared out of the high maize, 600 yards in front, spread out in open order and ran forward. Another party swung out to meet them from their right flank, and then the whole line advanced.

As such moments many varied thoughts thronged the harassed subaltern's mind. Smith was wondering what had happened in his pots. They would never get in under such a fire. If they had any sense they would not attempt it, but take up some sort of position by the gully and worry the Bulgars as they advanced. He remembered something very like it on manoeuvres in India. Then he must detail one man to watch for reinforcements. Better be Gill; he was a third class shot. He found himself aloofly criticising the Bulgarian attack; a shade mechanical, Bosche officers probably, it looked like a training stunt for a raw Bulgar battalion. That's why they are doing it in daylight.

"500, rapid—but mind you aim every shot, and don't get wild. We can stop anything if we keep our heads."

Smith itched to take the casualty's rifle and fire himself, but on such occasions the subaltern wants all his faculties for command. The Bulgars were advancing steadily in short rushes, their covering fire was heavy but wild. Smith was fairly

(Continued at foot of next column.)

WOMAN DIPLOMATIST.

ONE OF 13 AT PRISONERS-OF-WAR CONFERENCE.

A woman was one of the six British official representatives at the Anglo-German Conference at The Hague on prisoners-of-war.

Mrs. Daphne Livingstone, the first woman to sit at a table of diplomatic negotiation, is young, charming, and vivacious. An American married to a British officer, she has been a member and hon. secretary of the Government Committee on the Treatment of the Enemy of British Prisoners ever since it was formed two years ago. Until then she had never taken part in public work of any kind. To-day she has command of the vast detail of a far-reaching and highly confidential organisation, and can produce at a moment's notice the record of experiences of every British subject who has been a prisoner in any theatre of war.

There is probably no one in England to-day who has a more extensive knowledge of the actual conditions in prisoners' camps in Germany and elsewhere. In the early days of the war, Mrs. Livingstone used herself to do all the interviewing of the sick and wounded prisoners who were returned periodically: to-day it is done by a large staff of voluntary workers. But she still makes a point of personally interviewing all escaped prisoners of war. Her daily office hours are from 10 to 7.30, and the nearest approach to a holiday she has had in two years were her recent visit to The Hague and two official trips to Switzerland.

"I was there merely to assist Sir Robert Younger, our chairman, with information which as secretary of the committee I naturally have at command. It was real hard work all the time, and both parties were concerned solely with the welfare of the prisoners. Questions concerning them were the only ones discussed, and I think the agreement concluded will be found to be very satisfactory."

certain that someone was firing on them from half right, down by the gully. If so, his posts were showing sense. He soon saw that the Bulgar commander was throwing his right wing forward ahead of his centre, the extreme right flankers were already crossing the path. To attack from two sides was the obvious and inevitable manoeuvre. He was glad to see that his men were firing steadily. He watched with satisfaction the slight rhythmic swing of their shoulders as they took the recoil and the unburied action of the bolts. They were all right. The Bulgars were now some 400 yards away and he could see at least thirty bodies left behind. All the same Smith knew that if they could be made to face it, they would overwhelm his little party. He turned to the Corporal.

"You see that big devil ahead of their centre by the white bush, I think he's an officer; try and get him."

The Corporal took a very deliberate aim and fired. The officer dropped. The Bulgar covering fire was now very severe, and the in a dry crest of the hill was whipped up and spurring like a puddle in heavy rain. Four men were hit almost simultaneously, two through the head and two through the shoulder. The fire of the rest got a little wild. The Bulgars were quick to recognise this and came on more confidently. Just then the man who had been detailed to watch for reinforcements, crawled down into the trench.

"The cyclists have crossed Cyprus ravine, sir, they've stacked cycles the other side and they are coming on in open order. They're about a mile to come. I can see a lot of dust in the road between the bridge and the ravine, which I think is the infantry."

What happened during the next ten minutes Smith never remembered very clearly. He had a confused recollection of seeing the Sergeant shot through the head, and then the Bulgars reached the bottom of the hill and began to cheer. He remembered watching a Bosche officer urging them on and being knocked out by the Corporal. As he fell he knocked down the man behind him. He had made up his mind that the worst thing he could do was to mask the fire of the cyclists behind him, so shouted to his remaining twenty men to follow him, and he led them at the double down into the high reeds, where they were perfectly hidden. He watched the Bulgars reach the crest of the hill and swarm down the other side, to be met with a heavy and accurate fire from the cyclists, and saw them scuttle back to safety again. He led his little band through the reeds and joined up with the reinforcements. He found to his intense disgust that he had a bullet through his water-bottle. Then there was a pause.

An hour later a section of R.F.A. arrived, and the two companies from the bridge supported by them carried out a very spirited little counter-attack and recaptured the hill and 14 unwounded Bulgars. 73 Bulgar corpses were buried. To Smith's great regret all the men from the reeds were found dead. They had fought to the end.

Two days later the *Balkan News* reproduced the communiqué from A.H.Q. It finished by saying: "On the Struma front, the Bulgars captured one of our advance posts; it was resolutely defended by a small party, against greatly superior numbers and recaptured by a counter-attack the same evening. Some prisoners were taken and over seventy enemy corpses buried."

"I've often read that sort of thing before," thought Smith. "Now I know what it's like."

CORRESPONDENCE.
AN EDUCATIONAL MATTER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Sir, Following the report of the recent Commission in connection with Hongkong's educational facilities, perhaps one should not expect too much from our local scholastic heads. Be that as it may, there are many parents who fail to realise the wisdom of holding the Oxford Local Examinations immediately after the children have been enjoying eight weeks' vacation. Children are only children, and you cannot expect them to "crum" during a holiday in anticipation of an examination to come at the end of it, especially in the East, where fresh air and exercise are essentials to a more or less healthy existence. I do not think it fair to the children to be called upon to face an examination immediately after a long holiday, during which time, if they are normal children, they would not even glance at a school book. Of course, the results of the examinations may vindicate the educational authorities, but, judging from some children I know, who were very keen before the eight weeks' holiday arrived, I am extremely doubtful. Yours, etc.,

PARENT.

Hongkong, September 6th, 1917.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PAU."]

CANTON, September 6th.

SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSTOMS.

The Superintendent of Customs is always appointed by the Ministry of Finance, but owing to the independence of the Province the Local Authorities propose to appoint another to take over this post.

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS.

The Special Parliament has decided to appoint heads of the six Ministries on the 7th inst. We understand that they will give consideration to Wu Ting-fang as Minister of Foreign Affairs; Sun Heng-yee, Minister of Civil Affairs; Tang Shui-shi, Minister of Finance; Ching Pih-kwong, Minister of the Admiralty; Wu Hong-nan, Minister of Communication; and Li Lieh-kwan, Minister of Military Affairs. As Li Lieh-kwan, however, has left Canton, Cheung Ho-yu, among others, is considered a likely candidate for the last appointment. The M.P.s are also considering the appointment of Lam Poyik (Commander of the 1st squadron) as Vice-Minister and Chief Commander of the Navy.

APPROVAL OF THE NEW CIVIL GOVERNOR.

The Defence Commissioner of Chui-chow, Mok King-yu, who was once reported as declaring his independence from Kwangtung, has wired to Canton that he and other leaders will support the new Civil Governor.

TUCHUN AND CIVIL GOVERNOR'S BODYGUARD.

The Tuchun has refused to transfer the command of the 20 regiments of the ex-Civil Governor's bodyguards to the new Civil Governor, Li Yew-hon, in spite of the latter's request.

The Tuchun has ordered 4 torpedo-boats to anchor around the Tigris Pagoda Forts, GERMAN-CHINA BANK AND ITS BOOKS.

The Director of the China Bank, Fung Ka-sik, who, accompanied by a European deputy, Mr. McEwen, went to take over the German-China Bank in Shanghai the other day, found that a few important books had disappeared. Fung, therefore, summoned the German manager of the bank to appear before the Supreme Court. The German, however, has not obeyed the summons. A deputy and Fung have been ordered to go at once to the British Consul with a view to the arrest of the German.

GERMANS ARRIVE WITHOUT NEW PASSPORTS.

Two Germans have been reported by the police as having arrived at Canton without new passports. The matter has been reported to the Tuchun for instructions.

PORTUGAL AND THE WAR.

In the Chamber of Deputies at Lisbon last month the Minister of War, after explaining the attitude which Portugal had adopted since the declaration of war by Germany, said: "We have in France an expeditionary corps of the necessary strength, effectively to represent our nationality. In Africa we have achieved a military effort greater than any that has been undertaken there by any other European nation."

The Minister of War added that the Portuguese Government had received every assistance from the French and British Governments. He assured the Chamber that the Portuguese troops would fulfil their mission, and that they realised that they had the support of the country.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

LETTER FROM AN OCCUPANT OF ONE OF THE HONGKONG BEDS.

The following letter of appreciation from a wounded French soldier will be read with interest by the Scottish women in Hongkong who subscribed £200 nearly two years to the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service for the endowment of four beds—two in France and two in Serbia.

June 22nd, 1917.

Dear Madam, I have been a patient in the hospital at ... and have been admirably well looked after for the month that I have been here.

It pleases me more than anything to see the devotion shed on us by these most generous of persons who spend their money on our behalf and maintain these comfortable little beds. I cannot but compliment you on your devotion, and on your kindness and great generosity, for all those of my comrades who have been before me have carried away lasting memories, and I hope they, too, have thanked you for your devotion, and also thanked the kind Miss and Sister who tend us and whom one cannot fail to remember.

And then, dear Madam, I should like to tell you something of my stay on the Somme, and of my wounds.

I belong to the 1912 Class, and at the beginning of the war I was drafted into the ... with whom I left to take part in the defence of our dear country. We set off on the 3rd August, 1914, for the Front, and on the 6th August I received my baptism of fire, which was bad enough, but we were victors. This all took place in Alsace, in the valley of ... and the advance was made as far as St. Marie au Mine and ... where finally the Boches held us, and another Army Corps came to our relief, as by that time we were exhausted. Then we rested at ... but my old corps was called up to withstand a counter-attack near ... It was a hand-to-hand fight there, and we received the first casualties; my captain and my adjutant were killed and many of my friends, and in this awful *malice* I was wounded for the first time. Then I was evacuated and treated at ... Restored to health, back I went again to rejoin my regiment, and then I found myself alongside our dear Allies, the British. It was on the Somme that finally my regiment went into the attack, and there I received my second wound—a shell wound. I was looked after at ... near ... That time, I rejoined at the Depot at Grenoble, and I was drafted to a new infantry battalion. I remained two months with them, and then I was posted to the ... I had better luck with them, although the sector was a very bad one, just south of ... and after many attacks, we succeeded in getting possession of Hill 100 and Hills 123 and 140, looking over the Vimy ridge. There, we were relieved by the valiant British troops, and we entrained for Verdun on the 2nd March, 1916, and in the Vaux Fort we lived under a constant hail of shells. On the 20th March, I was once again wounded, this time by a splinter from a shell which hit my left hand. This was in my 23rd month of service, and I was treated at ...

This time, it was just a matter of about fifteen days before I was well again, and I rejoined my battalion besides my old comrades. This was my third wound, but, in spite of that, I took part in further attacks on the Somme, and, while resting, I received orders to return to Verdun, and once again we went back, and the famous action of the Maisonnette was made, but I came through it safely, although we had very heavy losses on our side. We retired, and at the end of eight days' rest, in October, 1916, we were sent to a quiet sector on the Aisne. The Boches, feeling themselves driven back by the British, as well as by my own countrymen in Champagne, fell back on our sector, as far as ... and after some days in the trenches there, keeping absolutely still, and making fortifications round the Chateau, one evening, or rather one night, the 3rd March, we were discovered by an attacking party of Germans, who threw lights and flares on us, and bombarded us most carefully with their artillery. There I was wounded for the fourth time—flesh wounds caused by a shell bursting—and after receiving first aid I was taken to ... thence by different stages to Creil, and it was there that I saw the brave English nurses looking after a party of wounded. Finally, I was put into a motor and taken to ... where, as soon as we arrived, I and my comrades found ourselves among these Nurses, and every possible care was shown us, with such effect that I am able to tell you that I shall soon have the use of my legs and be able to walk.

I would express to you, Madam, my warmest and deepest thanks. Thank you, Madam, whom I shall always remember for the bed in which I have received such tender care, and which is maintained owing to your kindness.

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

PREPARING FOR THE COMING SEASON.

Preparations are already being made behind the scenes for the next football season. The annual meeting of the Hongkong Association Football League is to be held at the R.C.A. Recreation Room on Monday next, at 5.30 p.m. when it is desired that there will be a full attendance so as to push forward the preliminary arrangements for the coming season. In this connection it should be borne in mind that each Club in membership may send two delegates. The above meeting will be followed by a meeting of the Hongkong Football Association, and here again, each team in membership may send two members.

The Middlesex Regiment will be looked to provide a few teams in the various leagues, for there is not much doubt that the pinch of war will be felt even more severely in the coming season than it was last year. The Hongkong F.C. has lost several members, who have gone home for military service; and the officials of this Club anticipate a certain amount of difficulty in organising a team capable of maintaining last season's prestige. If the Middlesex can produce some teams of the calibre of the Shropshires, there should still be some interesting encounters at Happy Valley, with the Army standing a good chance of securing some of the honours.

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

The following are the entries for the fourth Gymkhana to be held on the 15th inst.:

FIVE FURLONGS BACK.—Tittlemouse, Social Schemer, Yid, Anticipation, Billikin, Bing Boy, First Violin (Ariel) and Buchanan's.

GYMKHANA STAKES.—Windsor, Dablin, Australian Chief, Pingwa Chief, King Dick, Town Mouse, Yid, Anticipation and Ploughed Field.

CLASS HANDICAP.—Choice Dahlia, Tittlemouse, Pingwa Chief, King Dick, Town Mouse, Yid, Hush Hush, Anticipation, Billikin, First Violin (Ariel), Ben Bolt, Whipper In, Ploughed Field and Rex.

DISTANCE HANDICAP.—Tom Cobleigh, Sonxobera, Bing Boy, Social Schemer, Tempe, Chieftain, Ben Bolt, Whipper In and Green Elevator.

ONE AND A QUARTER MILE HANDICAP.

Windsor, Dahlia, Choice Dahlia, Tittlemouse, Australian Chief, Pingwa Chief, King Dick, Town Mouse, Yid, Anticipation, First Violin (Ariel), Ben Bolt, Whipper In, Ploughed Field and Rex.

THE BALLAD OF PAU AH CH'AN.

Pau Ah Chan was a pirate, the head of a robber band. Who ran a successful business in the Kwangsi Hinterland. He snaffled the wealthy farmers for ransom (each down preferred). He bristled with knives,—ditto ditto with wives,—and in fact was a bit of a bird. His robberies were so many that the neighbours, so men say, Grew quite annoyed, remarking, in their ignorant Chinese way: "Never the lotus closes, never the sun goes down. "But it sets on some wretched fellow whom Pau Ah Chan has done brown. "Never the lotus closes, but his pirate hand's elot. "To dip into somebody's stocking!" (Or words to that effect.) Pau Ah Chan didn't worry. When the tale of his thefts was long, He packed his swag in a plethora bag and came, first class, to Hongkong. It wasn't so queer that he came down here entirely unafraid, For he'd never grown skittish or fooled with the British—he thought it laid for trade. "I've scuppered nary a missionary,"—so his sensible maxims ran,— "For I'd rather plunder my brother Chin and bank with the Englishman."

Now Pau Ah Chan had a brother, who was boy to a tai-pan great And he greeted Ah Chan with pleasure and made him a feast of state. And when their tongues were loosened, the brother told with pride The tale of a house-boy's profit. And Ah Chan sat down and cried: "I have robbed, I have burned, I have pillaged the wealth of provinces three; "And even a civil governor was nothing compared with me. "From above Nanning to Shin-hing, from Yintak to Maenau, "The mothers threaten their babies with the terrible name of Pau. "I have robbed, I have burned, I have pillaged, and my plunder ever grew, "But it's perfectly clear I don't appear a circumstance to you."

Pau Ah Chan levanted by the very first boat, and then On reaching home he summoned the whole of his merry men, As fine a lot of brigands as ever avoided gelot. And, in sorrow more than anger, Ah Chan took up his tale. "I've led you for several seasons and I thought I knew my trade, "But I've met a man with a better plan. I'm going where money's made. "You're a promising pack of scoundrels, but you've staked from my employ; "You're no more use—you can go to the deuce. I'm off to Hongkong to do 'boy'!

You ask me, reader, can these things be so? I am his master, so I ought to know!

E.W.H.

SPORT.

WATER POLO.

SHUN CO. R.G.A. v. 288TH CO. R.G.A.

These teams met at the V.R.C. yesterday in the competition for the Royal Artillery Polo Cup. Both sides were very keen, as a win for either gave them the cup. A good even game resulted. The men from Lyman opened the scoring through Long, and maintained their lead till half-time. On resuming, the 288th Company added another goal, but before long Watson, by a good effort, scored for the 8th Company. This player, too, was responsible for the equaliser, which he managed by beating the goalkeeper with a good shot, being badly fouled in doing so. There was no further scoring, and a re-play will, therefore, be necessary. Mr. R. Widdell ably carried out the duties of referee.

FREIGHT MARKET.

Messrs. "Swire" & Co., ship and freight brokers of Hongkong, in their report dated 1st September, state:—

We last reported on 18th ult., since which our market has remained very quiet and only a very small volume of business has been transacted. Time-charter rates still keep their abnormally high level and business has been transacted, during the interval, on time basis, at over \$30 per ton per month for one year. When we last went to press, the rate Saigon/Hongkong stood at just over a dollar per picul, and this has since weakened, fixtures of 2 medium-sized regular coasters having been negotiated at \$1 and 95 cents per picul, the latter for first half September loading. The coaster referred to in our circular of 18th ult., fixed for round business has been fixed again in the same way at \$45,000 for second half September loading. Just previous to going to press the market is very quiet with very little demand.

Exports of rice from Saigon from 1st January to 24th July, 1917, amount to 551,035 tons as compared with 617,907 tons for the same period last year. Quotation for No. 2 White round sifted rice stands at \$4.00 per picul f.o.b. Saigon for August/September shipment.

SAIGON/JAVA AND SAIGON/JAPAN.—We have nothing to report. SAIGON/PHILIPPINES. Enquiries are still in the market, and small tonnage could probably be placed at \$1.40 per picul.

BANARON/HONGKONG.—The rate in this direction has, if anything, shown a slightly weakening tendency during the last two days, although a medium-sized regular coaster has accepted a very stiff rate for round trip business and further offers, as high as \$70,000, have been made.

NEWCHANG/CANTON.—Still remains with no business reported.

COAL.—Demand still continues as per our last advices. No local business is reported beyond the fixture of a regular coaster Hongkong/Tsulo Broom at \$17.50 per ton.

SALT/TONNAGE LOADING OR TO LOAD, *ad.*

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

SOLE AGENTS FOR SPALDING'S ATHLETIC GOODS.

SPECIAL NOTICE
TO
CLUB SECRETARIESTHE OPENING SEASON
FOR
FOOTBALL, CRICKET and HOCKEY

IS QUICKLY APPROACHING.

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF STATING.

THAT WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT

SELECTION OF THE NECESSARY

REQUISITES FOR THESE GAMES

MANUFACTURED BY
WELL-KNOWN BRITISH MAKERS.

SPECIAL TERMS TO CLUBS AND COLLEGES

OUR ILLUSTRATED SPORTS LIST FREE UPON
APPLICATION.

15

DRINK
"BULL DOG" LAGER BEER.
SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED.
BRITISH THROUGHOUT.

Brewed in Great Britain.

Bottled by British Labour.

OBTAINABLE AT—

PRICES DUTY PAID.

Wing On Co., Ltd.

QUARTS—\$20.00 per case

Sincere Co., Ltd.

of 4 dozen.

Sun Co., Ltd.

or \$5.10 per dozen.

Cheong Tai.

PINTS—\$26.50 per case

Nam Hing Loong.

of 8 dozen.

Ty Sing.

or \$3.40 per dozen.

Sang Tai.

Kwan Tye.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Admitted to be the Best

Obtainable in Canton from

SINCERE CO., LTD.

Sincere Co., Ltd.

Stocked by

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

Lager Beer brewed.

FRESH STOCKS JUST ARRIVED.

1497-8

Wm. Powell Ltd
TELEPHONE 346

We are now receiving New Shipments for

AUTUMN and
WINTER WEAR

OF GENTLEMEN'S HIGH-CLASS

OVERCOATINGS, SUITINGS

AND

SPORTING MATERIALS.

BEST ENGLISH CLOTHS—MODERATE PRICES.

STYLE AND FIT GUARANTEED.

149

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.
FANLING.

THE RELIEF COURSE is closed until further notice.
K. M. CUMMING,
Hon. Secretary.
[1902]

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL.

A NEW CLASS for "BEGINNERS" will commence on MONDAY, 1st October, 1917, if sufficient support be forthcoming.
Application for enrolment and enquiries regarding hours of school, fees, etc., should be made to the undersigned as early as possible.
By Order,
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 6th September, 1917. [1903]



WAR DEPARTMENT SERVICES.

QUOTATIONS will be received at the Office of the Deputy Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport, Victoria Barracks, Hongkong, until 12 Noon, 17th September, 1917, for the supply of whole or part of the undermentioned articles for delivery into Army Service Corps Supply Stores, Wellington Barracks, Hongkong, on or about 1st October, 1917. The cost to include delivery.

Preserved Meat, Tins 7,000 (1 lb. minimum)
Biscuits, ... lbs. 4,000 (whole wheat meal or similar kinds suitable as temporary substitute for bread and must be in air-tight tins).

Hops ... lbs. 60.
Marmalade ... tins 150 (1 lb.).
Jam ... tins 200 (1 lb.).
Essence of Chicken ... lbs. 20 (2 oz. tins).
Cocoa Powder ... lbs. 40.
Corn flour ... lbs. 50.

Quotations should state brand, etc., offered.
[1904]

LIFE INSURANCE.

M. R. E. P. HENDERSON, I.C.S., Retired, of 42, Leinster Gardens, London, W. 2, wishes to remind the readers of this paper that his advice is available, now as for the past sixteen years, to all those of known position who agree to his conditions.

The war, which has pitilessly exposed the weaknesses of many Insurance Offices, has triumphantly vindicated the soundness of Mr. Henderson's advice.

Out of thirty British Offices, whose valuations took place during 1916, only five maintained their pre-war bonus rate; included amongst these five are the two Offices most frequently recommended by Mr. Henderson, and, moreover, the bonuses declared by these two Offices are respectively the highest and second highest of the whole thirty. Moreover, neither of these Offices has the bonus rate ever once receded throughout their long history since they were established in 1836 and 1836 respectively.

When advice which has thus been indicated by time can be got free of charge, subject only to reasonable conditions, why not write and ask for it?
[1904]

NOTICE.

DURING the temporary absence of our Mr. S. D. SETNA, we have authorised Mr. P. N. COOPER to sign the Firm per Procuration.
S. D. SETNA & Co.
Hongkong, 5th September, 1917. [908]

NOTICE.

WE HAVE authorised Mr. WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON to sign our Firm name as a Partner from the 1st day of September, 1917.
DEACON, LOCKER, DEACON & HARTSON.
Hongkong, 1st September, 1917. [987]

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.

Session 1917-1918.

THE UNIVERSITY Re-Opens on September 15th.
Degree Courses in Medicine, Engineering, Arts including Education, also a Course in Commerce.
For particulars apply to—
THE REGISTRAR.
[985]

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND).

Unredeemed Bank Notes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any OUTSTANDING NOTES will be paid on presentation to the undersigned on or before SATURDAY, 29th September, 1917, at Noon.

AFTER THAT DATE, holders will find it necessary to claim repayment IN STEELING from the BOARD OF TRADE LONDON, to whom the necessary funds will be remitted.
THE BOARD OF TRADE make a charge for payment of claims out of monies deposited in the "COMPANIES LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT" at the Bank of England.
A. R. LOWE,
Liquidator.

Chartered Bank Building,
Hongkong, 18th August, 1917. [958]

AUCTION

For Sale by Public Auction.

Subject to the conditions prescribed by the Straits Settlements "Alien Enemies (Winding-up) Ordinance, 1914," as amended from time to time by Ordinances, 1 of 1915, XIX of 1916, XVI of 1916 and VI of 1917 and as adopted in this State.

All that land known as THE BATU LIMA ESTATE consisting of about 1,016 acres, 1 road, 33 perches held under East Coast Country Grant No. 49 for 999 years from 1883, RENT FREE. About 275 acres of the land is planted with rubber (150 acres in bearing) and 50 acres with coconuts 3 to 4 years old.

Situated on main road within 5 miles of Sandakan Wharf.

The following buildings in good condition are on the Estate:

- (a) 1 bungalow (40' x 20') containing 2 bedrooms, dining room and verandah. Corrugated iron roof, plank walls, tiled floor.
- (b) 1 Store (32' x 22'). Corrugated iron roof, plank walls.
- (c) 1 Smoke-house (24' x 20'). Corrugated iron walls and roof, earth floor.
- (d) 1 Factory (32' x 16'). Corrugated iron roof, plank walls, cement floor. Contains 2 hand machines, 28 latex pails, and over 5,000 cups.
- (e) 15 Cocoa houses (each 18' x 14'). Plank walls, thatch roofs.

The above property will be sold by Public Auction in the Court House at Sandakan at 12 o'clock Noon, on SATURDAY, 20th October, 1917.

RESERVE PRICE \$100,000 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CURRENCY.

(NOTE.—This reserve price has been based on a report on the Estate by the Honourable Mr. F. E. Leese, Manager of Sapong Estate.)

The sale is subject to the following conditions:—

- (1) \$20,000 (Singapore Currency) to be paid on purchase and the balance by monthly instalments thereafter of \$10,000. Interest at the rate of 7% per annum will be charged on instalments overdue and default for 30 days will invalidate the sale and render the deposit and all instalments liable to forfeiture.
- (2) Upon payment of the deposit an agreement will be executed by the liquidator undertaking to complete the transfer of the estate free of all incumbrances, on payment of the final instalment of the purchase money.

And to the following special conditions:—

- (1) The purchaser must be a British subject and not under any foreign influence; he will be required to satisfy the Governor that no person of enemy or foreign origin is directly or indirectly interested with him in the purchase, and he must make such statutory declaration in that behalf as may be required by the Governor.
- (2) For the purposes of this sale any person entitled under the Land Laws of North Borneo to make as a Native shall be deemed to be a British subject.
- (3) In the case of a Company formed for the purpose of acquiring the business its Memorandum of Association must contain special provisions, to be approved by the Governor, to exclude the possibility of the Company falling under foreign control. Generally speaking it will be necessary to prevent more than one-fourth of the shares or the voting rights being held by, or subject to the control of, foreigners.
- (4) In the case of a Company already in existence, if the Articles of Association do not already so provide, they must be altered in a manner satisfactory to the Governor so as to exclude the possibility of the Company falling under foreign control, and the Directors must furnish an undertaking to use their best endeavours to have the provisions referred to above inserted in the Memorandum of Association if legislation should be introduced enabling the Memorandum of Association to be altered by the insertion of such provisions.
- (5) Should the Governor for any reason not approve of the purchaser, the contract may be rescinded by the Governor and the deposit will be returned without interest or expenses.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

W. W. SMITH,
Liquidator.

RESIDENT'S OFFICE,
SANDAKAN, NORTH BORNEO,
29th June, 1917. [818]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Offices, on SATURDAY, the 29th of September, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers, together with a Statement of Accounts to 30th June, 1917.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 21st to 29th September, both days inclusive.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th September, 1917. [1000]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S

THE PREMIER SCOTCH OF THE FAR EAST FOR 25 YEARS.



POPULARITY MAINTAINED

BY ITS

EXCELLENT QUALITY

NOT BY EXPENSIVE

WORLD-WIDE ADVERTISING.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, HONGKONG.

DEATH.

CHEAH.—At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on September 5th, CHEAH TEIK HONG (the beloved son of Mr. Cheah Ho Hup, Penang), of the University, and late of Penang Free School, aged 18. (S. S. and F. M. S. papers please copy.)

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOGES ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FINSBURY SQUARE, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1917.

THE BUREAUCRATS.

In a recent communication, our London correspondent stated:—"Of late the public attitude towards those in authority has undergone a change." He then proceeded to point out that for the first, three years of the war those who were responsible for its conduct escaped public criticism, but now the confidence of the ordinary citizen has been shaken, and there is a much sharper note of criticism in the Press, and in the clubs and other places where public affairs are discussed. He is undoubtedly correct in his diagnosis of the causes which have produced this change. He places first of all the vagaries of the Censorship. We are bound to add that it is our carefully formed opinion that in the administration of the censorship officials appear to forget that the Press is entitled to receive courtesy and ought to be treated with common sense. Next, our correspondent places the revelations of the Mesopotamia Commission, of which we shall have more to say later. Finally, he points out that the recent air-raids on London have angered the citizens of the metropolis, who believe that women and children have been sacrificed to official negligence or incompetence. We see every cause for satisfaction in his conclusion that henceforth those in high places will find a sharper judgment on their conduct of national affairs.

Although the extraordinary conduct of the Press censors has caused irritation and suspicion in quarters where every effort has been made to avoid any word or

action that would weaken or worry unnecessarily those in authority, and although there have been signs of official incompetence in dealing with the air-raids on London, yet we cannot help feeling that the thing which has chiefly aroused the ire of the British people is that damning document called the Mesopotamia Report. We have hesitated to speak freely on this subject until now, although the hope has been gradually expiring that we could find some sort of excuse to offer for the revelations which have appeared in our columns upon this subject. We have, however, carefully perused the Report itself, and looked through the opinions pronounced in the editorial columns of many of the leading journals in Great Britain. It would be possible to fill pages and pages of this and succeeding issues with extracts of scathing condemnation, but it would be almost impossible to quote or to suggest anything which an unbiased critic could accept as a real excuse. The *Manchester Guardian* summarises the verdict of the general public as follows:—"The exposure is complete, and the attempts which the Commission make to console us with some well-meant and soothing reflections on the courage of our soldiers, are idle and irritating. Our soldiers die in every quarter of the globe, but that is no reason why they should die unnecessarily. Nor do the Commission excuse anyone who is blamable by insisting on his 'goodwill.' Goodwill does not restore the dead to life." Any impartial student of the matter will agree with the *Morning Post*, which says:—"All honest men must feel a burning sense of shame and horror as they read the report of the Mesopotamia Commission." The *Nation* declares that it is "the most terrible searchlight that has yet been thrown on the intellectual deficiencies of our governing and military systems." The *Telegraph* says:—"It is the most damning document that has ever been published," while even the *Spectator*, ever eager to persuade us that all is well in the administration of the war, confesses that "it shatters many reputations."

The Report, carefully produced by an able, conscientious and impartial Commission, discloses a whole catalogue of disasters and blunders in which all sorts and conditions of officials connected with Indian administration are implicated. It has been said that the punishment of publicity is sufficient for these men, and, although there are people who wish to have them more severely punished and remind us that a private soldier is shot if he sleeps at his post, yet we think it unlikely that these muddlers and incompetents will be placed in the Tower. It is an illustration of the automatic distribution of honours when we find that almost all the officials condemned by the Commission have recently received some sort of decoration. If titular distinctions are given to the holders of certain offices, whatever their merits, competent people, who usually have a sense of humour denied to pompous incompetents, will certainly decline to accept such labels.

The whole Report is a record of incompetence, carelessness, and blundered reputations. It is painful reading, especially the passages describing the sickening results which took place in Mesopotamia. The core of the whole sorry business is contained in two brief passages. When Major Carter protested about the condition of the wounded, "I threatened to put him under arrest," said General COWPER, "and I said that I would get his hospital ship taken away from him for a meddling, interfering faddist." Had General COWPER used those words in private conversation, they might have been charitably excused by a lenient listener as an exhibition of passing petulance, but uttered deliberately in public, after some days of warning that evidence would be required, they stand as an eternal monument of all that is worst in the official system of obstruction, delay, and even persecution. Yet, if the tragedy were less terrible, the sequel might be called humorous. The "meddling, interfering faddist" was not to be browbeaten, and, as so often happens, the official bully decided to take the line of least resistance when he found that he had to deal with a man who declined to be intimidated. So General COWPER, tired of answering Major CARTER's constant appeals in the negative (as the only result seemed to be more appeals which necessitated further replies), finally telegraphed to Simla, and urged that unless more river transports were sent Kut would fall. General SIR BEAUCHAMP DUFF, the Commander-in-Chief, to whom this message

was addressed, was then sojourning among the Himalayas, far away from the burning heat which was killing thousands of unprotected white men in Mesopotamia, and taxing the endurance of white troops in Indian transport trains. His reply to the subordinate is another classic. "Please warn General COWPER," he said, "that if anything of this sort occurs again, or I receive any more querulous or petulant demands for shipping, I shall at once remove him from the force, and will refuse him further employment of any kind." It will thus be seen that any officer who reported defects was threatened with professional ruin. If, by a whim, the benefits on the hill-tops decided to move in the matter, the officials of the Finance Department demanded a profit for money expended on war. They placed no cash value upon the lives which expenditure of money would have saved. One reform is urgent: India must no longer be governed from the hill-tops of Simla for seven months in the year.

While some portions of the Report make our blood boil with indignation, there are others which make our pulses quicken with pride in our fellow-countrymen. The defeats on the Tigris, the surrender of Kut, even the failure of the leaders, were, all unable to overcome the indomitable courage of the men. Baghdad was taken eventually, and the prestige of the British was never so high in Asia as when that famous city fell as a result of re-organisation combined with the sheer tenacity of purpose characteristic of the British race. The main purpose, which was to smash Germany's effort for Asiatic dominion, was achieved, despite the difficulties, the tragedies, and the utter lack of system which marked the earlier stages of the campaign. And if there were men of the stamp of Sir BEAUCHAMP DUFF in high official positions, there was, also, happily, a junior named Major CARTER who triumphed in the end. Nor must we forget Sir VICTOR HORSLEY who gave his life for his country in Mesopotamia, and who fought against the toils of officialdom. There is something pathetic and prophetic about the letter he wrote to Major CARTER just before his death, sympathising with his friend and saying that CARTER ought to be made Surgeon-General. The moral of the whole tragic business is that the wonderful doggedness of the troops and the fearless struggles of certain subordinates triumphed in the end over bureaucratic incompetence and saved the prestige of the British Empire. But we should be less than human if we did not emphatically condemn the blunders of officials, which have been again exposed, as in the days of the Crimea and the South Africa War. Nor can we forbear to point out that, if newspaper correspondents had been allowed to go to Mesopotamia earlier, many priceless lives would have been saved.

Fanling Relief Course is closed.

It is proposed to open a new class for beginners in the Chinese Language School, held under the auspices of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, on October 1st.

The draw in the Raffle organised by "Our Little Bit Society" for a special wool fund resulted as follows:—Ticket No. 278, 1st prize; ticket No. 127, 2nd prize; ticket No. 89, 3rd prize. The fund benefited to the extent of \$197.

A Whist Drive was held by the Dockyard Police on Wednesday evening. Mr. A. B. Allen was the M.C. and prizes were won by:—Ladies—1st, Mrs. Pile; 2nd, Mrs. Gerrard; 3rd, Miss Goodall. Men—1st, Mr. Honessy; 2nd, Mr. Cousins; 3rd, Mr. Alderman.

No. 27 Coy. R.A.M.C. enjoyed a delightful picnic to Repulse Bay last week, thanks to the generosity of the Services' Entertainment Fund. The water and weather conditions were ideal for bathing and boating, and the afternoon passed rapidly in the enjoyment of these pastimes. An excellent tea was served on the way home.

Mr. Cheah Teik Hong, a medical student at Hongkong University, passed away on Wednesday evening, following an operation for appendicitis. Born on September 8th, 1899, he was the eldest son of Mr. Cheah Ho Hup, of Penang, and was educated at Penang Free School. In 1915 and 1916 he obtained 3rd and 1st class honours respectively in the Senior Cambridge Local examinations, and was the holder of the 2nd Straits Government Scholarship and Penang Cheah Scholarship of 1917. The funeral took place yesterday. Amongst those who attended and sent wreaths were:—Prof. Earle, Drs. T. E. Cheah and E. de Souza, and all the Straits and F.M.S. students of the University.

HONGKONG'S WATER SUPPLY

The water return for the month ending August 31st states that the storage in the City and Hill district waterworks on September 1st totalled 1,012.04 million gallons, against 671.89 million gallons on the same date last year. This large increase is brought about by the completion of the new reservoir at Tylam Tuk. The consumption of water in the same district during August was 185.21 million gallons, by an estimated population of 269,119, giving an average consumption per head per day of 22.2 gallons. In the same month last year an estimated population of 265,519 consumed 230.17 million gallons, or an average consumption per head per day of 20.7 gallons.

In the Kowloon gravitation reservoir the total storage on September 1st was 352.50 million gallons, against 349.53 million gallons on the same date last year. The consumption of water in Kowloon during August was 30.27 million gallons, by an estimated population of 160,400, the average daily consumption per head being 12.6 gallons. In the corresponding month last year an estimated population of 98,600 consumed 42.16 million gallons, or an average consumption per head per day of 13.8 gallons.

The Government Analyst's report shows that the water is of excellent quality. There was also a constant supply in all the districts during August.

The new reservoir at Tylam Tuk contained 925.35 million gallons on September 1st.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

"JACK" FRUIT.

A Chinese was charged with stealing a quantity of "Jack" fruit from the Mosque Temple. The man was seen up a tree in the grounds of the Mosque purchasing the fruit, and was apprehended when he arrived on terra firma again. Sentence of three months' hard labour was passed.

WEAKNESS FOR HONGKONG.

Despite the fact that he had been banished for ten years, a Chinese who was found wandering about the Colony on Wednesday, was remembered by a Chinese detective, and was arrested.

For this over-fondness for Hongkong the man was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.

REVENUE OFFICER DISAPPEARS.

For the past few days a case has been proceeding before Mr. Dyer Ball in which a Chinese Revenue officer was charged with converting 50 tons of opium, which he had discovered on a sampan, to his own use. The Revenue Officer was "given away" by the sampan woman from whose boat he took the opium. The opium was conveyed to a Chinese in Circular Quay way, and this man was fined \$2,000 some days ago for his participation in the affair.

When the case against the Revenue Officer was again called on yesterday—the man was out on \$1,000 bail—the defendant did not put in an appearance.

Mr. Lo (defending), said that he had heard whispers just prior to coming into Court that his man had decamped.

Mr. Dyer Ball remarked that that being the case there was nothing else to do but to estreat the \$1,000 bail, and to issue a warrant for the man's arrest. The Magistrate added that he was sorry the case had ended in that abrupt manner, as it had promised to be very interesting.

Mr. Lo—I think, your worship, that I ought to be most sorry. I have not even received any money on account of my costs. (Laughter.)

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The following telegrams have been received by the American Consulate-General, Hongkong, from the Manila Observatory: 8 p.m., Sept. 5th.

Cyclone or typhoon East of Luzon, less than 300 miles distant, almost stationary.

2 p.m., Sept. 6th.

Typhoon in about 127deg. Long. E. and 18deg. Lat. N., moving N.

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

EXCEED RECRUITS.

The Minister of Defence announces that this year for the first time the number of Australian casualties has exceeded the number of recruits.

THE WAR.

THE RUSSIAN RETREAT IN RIGA.

NO IMMEDIATE DANGER THREATENS
PETROGRAD.

ITALIANS SECURE FURTHER SUCCESS.

GERMANO-SWISS AGREEMENT RATIFIED.

THE AIR-RAID ON LONDON.

BOMBARDMENT OF SCARBOROUGH.

Brance-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON YPRES FRONT.

LONDON, September 6th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We drove back raiders eastward of Klein-Zillebeke.

The artillery firing continues on the Ypres front. Enemy aeroplanes bombed various places, including the hospital area, causing a few casualties.

We brought down a raider. Our aeroplanes and balloons co-operated with the artillery throughout yesterday. Despite vigorous attacks we secured a number of photographs, of which many were taken at great distances behind the line.

The enemy aeroplanes were disoriented to flight, except well east of the line.

We brought down five and drove down nine enemy machines. Seven of our machines are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN RAIDERS DRIVEN OFF.

LONDON, September 6th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We drove off raiders in the neighbourhood of Armentieres. The Portuguese also drove off a raid.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

GERMAN ATTACKS REPULSED.

PARIS, September 6th.

A communiqué states: After a violent bombardment, the Germans launched two attacks on the Californian Plateau, which were repulsed.

There were lively artillery duels on both banks of the Meuse.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH AERIAL REPRISAL.

PARIS, September 6th.

A communiqué states: After a lively bombardment the Germans yesterday evening attacked the Casemates Plateau, but our fire checked the attackers, who were unable to reach our lines.

The artillery struggle continued violently on both banks of the Meuse till night-time.

German aeroplanes last night again bombed the hospitals near Verdun. There were some casualties.

The Germans also heavily bombed Bar-le-Duc, where there were some civilian casualties.

Six enemy aeroplanes were brought down; five fell within their own lines seriously damaged.

As reprisal for the bombing of hospitals, two of our aeroplanes last night bombed Treves.

We also carried out many air-raids on railway stations, aerodromes, barracks, factories and munition dumps, causing a violent fire among the last-named.

Italian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALIAN FRONT.

ITALIANS CAPTURE IMPORTANT POSITION.

LONDON, September 6th.

An Italian official report states: The battle on the Julian front has been renewed violently.

We captured an important position south-westward of Okroglo.

The battle is raging north-eastward of Gorizia. Yesterday we captured 1,688 prisoners belonging to ten regiments.

The enemy violently attacked between Costagrovizza and the sea.

The enemy gained an initial success between Brestovizza valley and the sea.

Our counter-attack re-established the line and yielded 416 prisoners.

Two hundred and sixty-one aeroplanes participated in the battle.

Our air fleet last night effectively bombarded Pola. All our machines returned safely.

EARLIER CABLES.

CAPTURE OF IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITION.

LONDON, September 6th.

The Daily Mail understands that the Italians have captured Monte San Gabriele, which has a height of 2,000 feet and is situated four miles north-east of Gorizia. The position is of most vital importance to the defence of Trieste. As Hermadina, to the south, supports the Austrian left before Trieste, so San Gabriele, a veritable Gibraltar, protected the enemy's right. It had been prepared for defence with extraordinary care. Gun and machine-gun positions were excavated in solid rock or defended by armour and concrete, while the steep slopes were a tangle of the thickest barbed wire.

LATEST

THE SUCCESS CONFIRMED.

Reuter confirms the report that the Italians have captured Monte San Gabriele and 1,000 prisoners. The success is of the highest military value.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SUBMARINE BOMBARDS SCARBOROUGH.

TOWN CROWDED WITH VISITORS.

LONDON, September 6th.

The submarine appeared suddenly at seven in the evening two miles from the shore.

The submarine immediately bombarded the town, and a dozen shells fell on the seashore, which was crowded with visitors.

Several other shells fell in the town. Mine-sweepers rapidly returned the fire, but it is doubtful whether they hit the submarine, which submerged and disappeared in a few minutes.

EARLIER CABLES.

A British official report states: A submarine appeared off Scarborough last evening and fired thirty rounds, half of which fell on shore.

Three persons were killed and five injured.

The damage was slight.

Russian front.

EARLIER CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE EVACUATION OF RIGA.

NEW LINE OF DEFENCE PLANNED.

LONDON, September 6th.

A Russian semi-official message says: After the forcing of the Dvina, the evacuation of Riga was ordered to be expedited. Several units showed exceptional valour. The First Battalion of Death charged into the midst of a *mitf* at a most critical moment and flung back the enemy, pursuing him for two miles. As regards the events of September 1st, the Germans concentrated against the position of the Russian division, and their preponderating artillery silenced the Russian batteries. The first line trenches were subsequently destroyed by gun fire, and, owing to enormous losses, the division retired. The evacuation of the front thus pierced was rendered more difficult by the great extent of the gaps and the absence of artillery. The remainder of this division was reinforced by reserves and a second line of defence was organised. Owing to energetic counter-attacks with the bayonet, the enemy was, at times, driven back as far as the river.

The Central Executive Committee state that the Russians sustained considerable losses, but the morale of the Army is good. The soldiers retired on a front of seven miles, carrying wounded comrades and officers. The majority of the wounded arrived at the dressing stations with weapons. There was no panic manifested on the battlefield. All the efforts of our Command are at present directed towards the possibility of getting the Russians out of the *cul-de-sac* which has been formed in the region of the Riga-Venden road.

After the evacuation of the Riga sector the Russian lines will be considerably shortened. The front will probably occupy a line between Friedrichstadt and the Gulf of Riga, halfway between Riga and Venden, being partially based on the lower course of the Līvonia An. M. Savinkoff has declared, in an interview, that there is no danger of the encirclement of the Army, as the Russians are retiring in perfect order and in conformity with a pre-arranged plan.

THE GERMAN AIMS.

PETROGRAD, September 6th.

Military experts state that the Germans are endeavouring to extend operations to the entire Baltic littoral. All available men and materials have been assembled for this object. Certain members of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates are trying to utilise the fall of Riga to force the resignation of General Korniloff, but officials declare that the resignation is impossible.

RUSSIAN RETIREMENT CONTINUES.

LONDON, September 6th.

A wireless Russian official report states: Our retirement along the Gulf of Riga continues.

The enemy reached the crossing of the river Aa, fifty versts north-eastward of Riga.

Our troops operating eastward of Riga retired to Zegewold, Lemberg and Detmehulzard.

Submarines shelled the Riga coast. Our counter-attacks drove out the enemy from the heights near Slohodzeia. We captured 200 prisoners and restored the position.

GERMAN REPORT.

A wireless German official report states: Our operations in the Riga region have further developed.

Heavy coast-guns, including some of thirty centimetres calibre, were captured undamaged.

LATEST CABLES.

LONDON, September 6th.

A wireless German official report states: The northern wing and centre of the Twelfth Russian Army are rapidly retreating.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE AIR RAID ON ENGLAND FAMOUS HOSPITAL, DAMAGED.

LONDON, September 6th.

One of the first bombs struck a Colonial Soldiers' Hut.

Shortly after the Colonials had left another fell immediately before the main entrance to a famous hospital, breaking hundreds of window-panes.

The soldiers pay a tribute to the magnificent behaviour of the women and nurses.

Two men were killed in a hotel opposite.

GERMAN VERSION.

LONDON, September 6th.

A wireless German official report states: Our aviators carried out a successful night-attack on London.

EARLIER CABLES.

ONE RAIDER BROUGHT DOWN.

LONDON, September 6th.

A British official message says: A considerable number of aeroplanes crossed the south-east coast over a wide area last night.

The raiders travelled singly or in groups, rendering an estimate of their numbers difficult, but possibly they numbered twenty. They first dropped bombs on London districts at 11.45, continuing till 1.10 in the morning.

They also dropped bombs on the coast. The casualties reported are nine killed and forty-nine injured. The damage is not extensive.

One machine was brought down in the sea at Sheerness.

The raid was plainly visible at Hampstead, where the sky was clearer. Several bombs were heard to fall in quick succession and shells were seen bursting high in the air.

One of the searchlights picked up one of the raiders and held it for some minutes until the anti-aircraft guns in the same area opened up fire.

There was no panic among the inhabitants, but large numbers of women and children rushed for shelter in the tubes.

Some of the bombs as they fell caused a sharp, whistling sound.

The explosions were louder than those of a Zeppelin.

Although the searchlights did not hold the raiders for long, their progress could be marked by the line of bomb flashes.

The number of the raiders is estimated as between eight and ten.

THREE DISTINCT SQUADRONS.

LATER.

Apparently there were three distinct attacking squadrons. Shortly after the first returned seawards, the second appeared, followed by a third, which circled round till nearly one o'clock in the morning.

Groups appear to have remained for twenty minutes over various districts. According to an eye-witness, one hostile aircraft was struck. Numbers of British aviators were aloft and were seen manoeuvring for battle, but the haze obscured the results.

HEAVY FIRING AT THAMES MOUTH.

LONDON has had its first experience of a moonlight aeroplane raid. Owing to the late hour, few people were about. The first indication that something was happening was the calling out of the special constables, and then came the dull boom of distant guns, soon intermingled with crashing bombs from a drove of aeroplanes. Although the moon was shining brightly, there was a slight haze, rendering the aircraft invisible to the ordinary observer.

Unofficial reports speak of heavy firing at the mouth of the Thames, where explosions were heard continuously for twenty-five minutes. The raiders flew up the river and returned an hour later.

"All clear" was given in London at 1.59 a.m.

THE CASUALTIES.

Forty bombs were dropped on the London district.

The Press Bureau announces that the casualties were eleven killed and sixty-two injured.

THE RAID ON CHATHAM.

The air raid on Sheerness and the Chatham area, on September 3rd, was undertaken by a single aeroplane, probably a Gotha. Arriving when the places of amusement were empty, ten bombs were dropped. Only one fell on Chatham Naval Barracks, but another struck a building where naval men were sleeping in hammocks.

The raider was not seen, but his engines were heard. Despite the havoc, the behaviour of the naval ratings was as though they were on the quarter-deck in peace time.

GERMAN REPORT.

A wireless German official report states: There has been vigorous day and night aerial activity.

We bombed Dover, Boulogne and Calais.

We shot down twenty-two aeroplanes.

ADRIANOPLE BOMBED.

The Admiralty announces that naval aircraft effectively bombed Adrianople bridge and railway station during the night of September 2-3.

NAVAL AEROPLANES BOMB BRUGES DOCKS.

The Admiralty reports: We raided, on Monday night, the Bruges docks, and Varsenaere and Ghislies aerodromes. We dropped many tons of bombs with good results.

We again raided Bruges docks yesterday at noon, hitting many sheds and causing fires.

We shot down one aeroplane. All our machines returned.

The Near East.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

CAMPAIGN IN PALESTINE.

LONDON, September 6th.

A Turkish communiqué states: There was an intense bombardment of our positions at Gaza.

Africa.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ANGLO-BELGIAN JUNCTION.

LONDON, September 6th.

An East African official message states: An Anglo-Belgian column from Iringa effected a junction with the Belgians from Kilossa.

The Belgians crossed the Ulanga towards Mahenge.

We inflicted severe losses on the enemy retreating towards Mahenge. Many enemy soldiers are surrendering in the southern area.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANO-SWISS AGREEMENT RATIFIED.

BERNE, September 6th.

The Germano-Swiss agreement has been ratified. Germany permits the export to Switzerland of 200,000 tons of coal and 10,000 tons of iron and steel monthly. Germany also permits the export of chemical fertilisers, sugar, seed-corn, straw, benzine and zinc.

Switzerland pays £500,000 monthly for the coal and allows the export of 10,000 head of cattle.

FRENCH CABINET CRISIS.

PARIS, September 6th.

Several papers anticipate an immediate Cabinet crisis.

EARLIER CABLES.

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN ENTHUSIASM.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT WILSON.

NEW YORK, September 6th.

The second great demonstration within a week has been held in honour of the men called up for the selective drafts, who were paraded on the eve of their departure for the training camps.

President Wilson, in a letter to the New York contingent, said: "I envy the men across the sea. I should like to be on the field and in the trenches, where the real final battle for the independence of the United States will be fought alongside the other peoples of the world who are struggling like ourselves to make an end of these things threatening the integrity of their territory, their lives, and the very character and independence of their governments."

LATEST CABLES.

LOANS TO GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

WASHINGTON, September 6th.

The Government to-day loaned to Great Britain and France 100,000,000 dollars each.

LOYALTY OF LABOUR PLEDGED.

MINNEAPOLIS, September 6th.

Mr. Gompers, Chairman of the American Alliance of Labour and Democracy, who is presiding at a three-day Loyalty Conference, pledged the working classes moral and material support in the war against Germany. He undertook to combat propaganda tending to weaken the loyalty and devotion of the masses.

SEDITION IN AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, September 6th.

The Department of Justice is inquiring into the seditious utterances of the German-American newspapers, also pacifist and other societies. Prosecutions are probable.

LATEST CABLES.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

PETROGRAD NOT IN DANGER.

PETROGRAD, September 6th.

The Chief of Staff, General Romanovsky, interviewed, considered that no immediate danger threatens Petrograd, owing to the approaching unfavourable weather and the enemy's inability to spare the necessary time and material.

THE LIBERTY LOAN.

The Liberty Loan at present has reached 3,606,000,000 roubles.

STIRRING APPEAL TO ARMY.

The Councils of Workmen and Soldiers and the "Peasants' Delegates" have stirring appeals to the Army with reference to the recent disasters, enjoining it to have done with talk, and warning disobedient that they will be treated mercilessly as traitors, and pointing out that the only road open is that leading forward.

EX-ROYALTIES UNDER ARREST.

PETROGRAD, September 6th.

The newspapers state that the ex-Imperial presumptive, Michael Alexandrovitch, and his wife and the Grand-Duke Dimitri Pavlovitch are being kept under arrest in connection with the anti-revolution plot.

The *Dnipro Gazette* says that the arrest of the Grand-Duke was due to the fear of a popular rally in their favour owing to the events in the Riga region, similarly as the disaster in the south was the motive for the removal of the ex-Imperial to Tobolsk.

FORMING A VOLUNTEER CORPS.

PETROGRAD, September 6th.

M. Lobedoff, acting Minister of Marine, has resigned in order to form a Volunteer Corps in the interior, and is consulting with General Korniloff regarding the project.

M. Savinkoff, War Minister, takes charge of the Ministry of Marine.

PETROGRAD'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The Municipal Council elections have resulted in 75 Revolutionary Socialists, 60 Maximalists, 44 Constitutional Democrats and 12 miscellaneous members being elected.

EARLIER CABLES.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR.

ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH GER- MAN'S INNOCENCE.

LONDON, September 6th.

Dr. Michaelis, the German Imperial Chancellor, has issued a statement maintaining that certain revelations brought out in the trial of General Sukhomlinoff support Germany's contention that Germany was not responsible for the war. The revelations in question have not reached London.

Dr. Michaelis says the Tsar cancelled the Russian mobilisation, but this order was thwarted, among others, by M. Sazanoff, the Foreign Minister.

Dr. Michaelis asks who were behind those pre-war criminality, and says: "Aggressive plans against Germany had long been prepared by influential politicians of France, England and Russia, including General Sukhomlinoff and President Poincaré."

He quotes Reuter telegrams from Petrograd between July 29th and July 30th, 1914, in an endeavour to show that British official influence, there was in favour of war, and concludes by reiterating that Germany is determined to continue to fight in loyal harmony between Crown and people for the holy rights of freedom and peaceful development.

THE IRISH CONVENTION.

LONDON, September 6th.

The Press Bureau reports: The Irish Convention met at the City Hall, Belfast, and continued the discussion of the draft schemes based upon the Dominion principle of self-government.

The Lord Mayor entertained the members of the Convention to luncheon. Afterwards they inspected the harbour, and Messrs. Harland & Wolff's and Messrs. Workman & Clark's shipyards.

CANADIAN ANTI-CONSCRIPTION- TIONISTS.

MONTREAL, September 6th.

A merchant with German connections is suspected to be at the head of the anti-conscription terrorists.

Eleven suspects of the Atholstan outrage have been detained.

DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE.

Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude's despatch dealing with the operations carried out against Kut and Baghdad by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, has been recently issued.

It deals with the work done between August 28th, 1915, and March 21st, 1917 - a period of seven months, of which the first three and a half were devoted to preparation.

Upon assuming command, General Munde continued the work of reorganization begun by his predecessor, Lieut. General Sir Percy Lake. The health and training of the troops who had suffered severely from the intense summer heat was improved. Means of communication by rail, road and river over a country difficult at any time and made difficult by both floods and droughts, were perfected; and the lines of communications themselves secured against attack. Reinforcements were accumulated, resources were developed, and reserves of supplies and materials were amassed.

By the beginning of December, 1916 movement was begun against the enemy about Kut. The Turks still occupied the same positions on the Tigris, the same they had occupied during the summer. On the left bank they held the hitherto unmeasurable Samamiat position, which they had strengthened and elaborated. Kut was protected on the right bank by a system of trenches running from a point on the river 3 miles to the north-west and circling 4 miles to the south. Behind until by the river Hal, two miles below the exit from the Tigris. The system was continued to the north-west. The position gave the attack a good chance of success, and it was decided to use possession of the Hal, clear all the enemy trenches on the right of the Tigris, and at the same time so sapping his strength by constant battle in Samamiat that must either give up that position or weaken his line that a crossing of the Tigris might be easily accomplished further west.

The first movement was successfully accomplished on December 14th. Lieut-General Coddie distracted the attention of the enemy by a bombardment of Samnangin firing, while during the night of the 14th-15th the cavalry and Lieut-General Marshall's force crossed the river to the Hai, surprised the enemy, cleared both banks of the river up to Hai Gidge bank, which was strongly fortified, and Lieutenant-General Marshall fought his way forward until he was commanded of the river upstream of the Khudairi Band. The operation was under control of the Hai, and en-

us to threaten the enemy's communications west of Shanran, while it safeguarded our own communications and opened out prosperous districts for our own supply.

On the night of the Tigris in the Anadama bend. Here he menaced our communications on the Hai, and he also had it in his power to inundate portions of our line. The enemy held a strong line in flat, bare country, difficult for attack. Lieut. General Cible spent the time between January 5th and 19th clearing the bend. The preliminary stage involved digging some 25,000 yards of trenching under trying conditions, constant rain and exposure to enemy fire but it was duly carried out. On the 9th the Gurkhas and Malabars had taught their way to the river bend on the left after severe hand-to-hand fighting. On the right our troops made steady progress, and a heavy counter-attack got forward under cover of a mist was broken by the resolute resistance of the Manchester, a frontier Sikh Regiment, and a detachment of Sikh pioneers. Lieutenant General Marshall's cavalry west of the Hai carried out successful diversions, and though the were hampered by the mist they forced their way into Hai Town and occupied it for several days. By the 17th our troops were pressing the enemy hard, and by the 19th his position had become so difficult that he voluntarily retired across the Tigris. During these operations the fighting had been severe, mainly hand-to-hand, but the enemy, in spite of his tenacity, had more than met his match in the dash and resolution of our troops.

While this fighting was in progress, Lieut.-General Marshall began his preparations for the reduction of the Balaclava position. The extensive trench system which the Turks held astride the Hai river, near its junction with the Tigris, was the gap in the enemy's front line on the frontage of about 1,500 yards was captured. There was heavy bombing fire, and the Turks made good use of shells. Fully a series of guns and machine-guns in a conical counter-attacks the enemy was able to recapture his line, but a gallant charge across the open by the Royal Warwick restored the situation. On the 24th the assault of two Pioneer battalions was a complete success, and the Turkish fighting on both banks of the river was increased. Our forces attempted to strike against the Turkish line near the Bidrah and Sersan, but the waterlogged ground held them up. On February 1st the Cheshmes had an attack which gave us further ground, and on the 2nd, the Devone and a Gurkha Battalion carried two lines of works and held them in spite of counter-attacks and artillery fire. That evening the enemy began a retreat, and by the morning of the 5th had fallen back to the Liquorice Factory.

line East and West across the Dahn
Bend.

The Liquorice Factory was dealt with by howitzer fire, and on the 9th the King's Own Cavalry secured a valuable lodgment in the town. The success of the enemy's line which enabled us to extend rapidly on both flanks. By the night of the 10th-11th it became known that the enemy had given up his forward positions and had retired to an inner line across the Dalrya Bend. On the 14th the final battle for the position was fought. The 1st Cavalry Division was opened by the Loyall North Lancashire shires, and after some desultory fighting by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the South Wales Borderers, the Buffs and the Dorsets, the enemy was pushed bodily to the rear, and by night only held about a mile of works. Two companies of the Gurkha battalion, acting on their own initiative, took these trenches, and on the 14th the Dalrya Bend was clear of the enemy.

The final action for the capture of Kut now came. Lieut.-General Cobbe, who had kept the enemy cautious on the alert at Samarra, began a threatening attack on the 22nd. He captured some of the works before him, and was at once subjected to heavy counter-attacks, which the Salfordshires brilliantly resisted. On the night of the 22nd-23rd fights were being made against the river, opposite Kut to the north, the Lignite Factory, and the Turkish were misled into thinking bridging operations were to take place at this point. The point chosen was actually at the south end of the Shamran Bend, West of Kut. Three ferries were set to work for a daybreak on the 23rd. The Norfolk effected a surprise lodgment with the first trip, but the other ferries, carrying Gurkhas were met with a staggering fire and only with difficulty effected a landing. The Norfolks and Gurkhas held on tenaciously, and pushed up stream, bridging operations were commenced. In the nightfall, as a result of the day's operations, our troops had, by their unconquered valour and determination, forced passage across a river in flood, 340 yards wide, in face of strong opposition. Had seemed at a position 2,000 yards down, covering the bridge head. With this crossing was proceeding Lieut.-General Cobbe had secured the third parallel lines of Samarra, and was waiting his war with bombs deep into the ranks of the trenches. On the 24th the fighting continued, the enemy fighting tenaciously but the end was certain. General Cobbe secured the Samarra position and the enemy was now in complete retreat.

Lieut.-General Marshall took up pursuit of the enemy with dash, broke the enemy's miles from Stumman, and forced vigorously. On the 26th the fight was rapid, with the cavalry and infantry following on either flank, and the craft of the Royal Navy pushing

stream in hot pursuit. Much booty and many enemy vessels, including those captured from us, fell into our hands. The pursuit was broken off at Aziziyeh, 50 miles from Kut and half-way to Baghdad, and a pause for re-organisation was made while Lieut.-General Cobbe's force closed to the point. On the 5th movement began again, and an advance was made to Lajj. Here the Turkish rear-guard was found well entrenched; it was attacked and decisively defeated during the night.

On the 7th we were in touch with the enemy's line on the Dhiabul, a river joining the Tigris six miles below Baghdad. On the 8th a crossing was attempted in the face of a withering rain, and, as this manoeuvre was felt to be impracticable, a force under Lieut. Colonel Marshall was ferried across on the 9th. The object was to surprise the enemy, to enfilade the enemy position, and to gain from the right bank of the river. During the night of the 8th-9th further attempts were made to ferry the river. Only one succeeded, and landed a party of 70 of the Royal North Lancashire on the further bank. For the next 10 hours the passage of the river was completely forced, the detachment held gallantly in its fixed position, under constant close fire from the surrounding buildings, gardens and a portion of General Marshall's cavalry and a portion of General Gough's force crossed the Tigris, worked

codecs up to Shawa Khan and, well served by the aeroplanes, pushed on towards Baghdad. On the morning of the 10th our cavalry sought the way to the point two miles west of Baghdad railway station, and in a blinding dust-storm followed the Decauville railway up to the station on the left bank of the Tigris. General Marshall had forced the Turks to retreat at two points early on the 10th, had lain up with the devoted Loyal New Lanarkshire, and had advanced against the strong position of Tel Mammud which covered Baghdad. During the night, the Turks retired and General Marshall forced Baghdad and manifesting satisfaction on the part of the inhabitants. The great fleet, proceeding off the Tigris ahead formation, anchored in the High Residency, and the forces under Lieut. General Marshall moved on. The British provided for the security of approaches to the City. An immediate destruction, which the enemy has been unable to carry out, was taken, including all the property rendered useless by General Townshend's capture by the enemy at Kut.

After the fall of Baghdad previous
were made to secure the safety of
British Army. A brilliant operation
ried our force upward on the railway
to the Mushrab Station, which the
Watch and the Gurkhas rushed on
night of March 14th. The enemy's
was so rapid that touch was not ob-
tained again. By the 16th our front was exten-
(Continued at foot of next column)

When battles were fought
a chivalrous sense of should and
ought,
In spirit men said,
"End we quick or dead,
Honour is some reward!
fight fair—for our own best or
worst;
So, Gentlemen of the Guard,
Fire first!"

In the open they stood,
 Man to man in his knightlihood :
 They would not deign
 To profit by a stain
 On the honourable rules,
 Knowing that practice perfidly no man
 durst
 Who in the heroic schools
 Was nursed.
 But now, behold, what
 Is war with these, where honour is not :
 Ranna laments
 His dead innocents ;
 He roars howls : " Sly slaughter
 Rules now ! Let us, by modes once call'd
 accurst,
 Overhead, under water,
 Stab first."

THOMAS HARDY

In The Times.

In an article in the *American Medical Journal*, Colonel T. H. Goodwin, R.A.M.S. points out that there is a considerable shortage of medical men among the Allies in Europe, due to a number of causes, among them the facts that Great Britain has at present five separate campaigns in operation, that the British armies have increased from a comparatively few thousands to millions, that the number of hospital beds in the British Isles alone is at present over 2,000,000, that more than 300 field ambulances and 100 stationary and general hospitals are being maintained in the field, besides hospital trains, ships, etc. Furthermore on the Western front, from the commencement of the war up to June 1916 medical officers have been killed in action, 7,700 wounded, and 62 died from disease. The result is that there is a considerable shortage of medical men. In several districts in England there is only one physician to every 5,000 inhabitants and some districts in which the ratio is only 1 to 6,000. Medical assistance has been asked for from the United States, and the request has met with a prompt and liberal response.

The *Lancet*, dealing with the same subject, points out that while much valuable assistance is being given by the American medical units sent over, this will not solve the difficulty, as naturally these will be required by the American army of expeditionary forces begin to arrive for the United States. The English paper holds that the medical face of the country is being dangerously depleted by action of the Medical War Council. "So closely have the areas in France been scrutinized with a view to obtaining every medical officer for the army intensive is the method of investigation and representation now being conducted that it seems certain that should all energy and self-sacrifice not bear sufficient fruit the army will have to economize on the employment of medical men in some plan of redistribution or of sacrifice. There are already men being sent into the army who can hardly be sent to the State." Medical men who are retired are now showing their patriotism by abandoning their well earned remunerating practice.

Inviting public subscription for **85,000** shares at par (\$10 each), upon an increase of the Capital of the Company.

Report presented to the Shareholders at the Seventh Ordinary General Meeting held at the Office of the General Managers, on Wednesday, 15th August, 1917, at 11.30 o'clock a.m.

The General Managers have now the pleasure to submit their annual report and statement of the Company's accounts made up to 31st May, 1917.

The net profit for the year ended 31st May, 1917, after allowing for interest, Auditor's Fees and writing off depreciation on the Company's Plant, Machinery, Launches and Stock, is £19,519.52. This amount together with the sum of £10,518.62 undistributed profit brought forward from last year makes an available balance of £29,369.55, which it is resolved to appropriate as follows:—To place in Reserve Fund £10,000.00. To pay a dividend of £1.00 per share £7,808.00. To carry forward to credit of next year's account £21,568.55.

1917. MAY 1917. Cr.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
For the year ending 31st May, 1917.

GORDON & Co.,
General Manager

I report that I have audited the above Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers of the Company and have found it to be in accordance therewith.

I have received all the information and explanations I have required. No depreciation has been written off Steel Process Patent Rights which appear in the books at their original cost, namely, \$21,389.56. Subject to the foregoing observation, in my opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of my information and the explanations given me and as shown by the books of the Company.

C. BERNARD BROWN, A.C.A.

Hongkong, 6th August, 1917. -

Hongkong, 6th August, 1917.

The Register for application of Shares will be closed on Thursday, 1st November, 1917, at 3 o'clock.

Form of application for Shares.

To the General Managers of

HONGKONG STEEL FOUNDRY COMPANY, LIMITED

Gentlemen,

Having paid to the Company's bankers the sum of \$
being a deposit of \$10 per share for shares of \$10
each of the above-named Company I (or we) request you to
allot to me (or us) shares on the terms of the
Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association and I
(or we) agree to accept the same or any less number that
you may allot to me (or us) and I (or we) authorise you to
..... as the holder (s) of the said shares.

Name in full
Address
Description
Date
Signature

Receipt for Application Money.

Received this.....day of.....on account
of the Hongkong Steel Foundry Co., Ltd., from.....
.....the sum of \$.....being a deposit of
\$10 per share upon.....shares of \$10 each of the
above-named Company.

For the—
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China

N.B.—This receipt when returned to the applicant must be reserved, and if accompanied by receipt for the amount due on allotment, will be exchanged in due course for a certificate.

IT is desired, and a resolution for that purpose has been passed, to increase the Capital of the Company to \$1,000,000 by the issue of new shares, for the purpose of extending the business which is firmly believed will, if so extended, not only prove exceedingly profitable to all interested in the Company, but will also supply a want to local concerns.

The Capital of the Company is now \$1,000,000, of which only \$76,180 has been paid up, and on this the Company last year made a net profit of \$19,817 and paid a dividend of 10 per cent. at the end of the present financial year. It is anticipated that doubling the Capital will at least treble the profit; and, should this anticipation be realized, the Company could pay at least a steady Twenty per cent.

Steady twenty per cent.

Steel Castings are ordered for numerous purposes by all Railway Contractors, Engineering and Dock Companies everywhere in China, and by many small manufacturers. At present a large portion of the Steel products which this Company is able to manufacture is obtained from abroad—at probably a great expense in consequence of the very limited capacity of this Company to carry out orders received. With an increased Capital, enabling more furnaces to be erected, and more labour employed, this Company would then be in a position to supply most of, if not all, the needs for steel castings in this part of the world; for, with the experience now acquired by the General Managers, and by their present head workmen, there should be no difficulty whatsoever in most satisfactorily fulfilling such requirements.

It is much desired that sufficient additional capital be subscribed, beyond that which is required for the further development of the Steel Casting department, in order to enable a plant to be obtained, and set up, for the purpose of rolling Steel Ingots into material for Engineering, Dock, and Building requirements; for which material there is now a great demand.

It is therefore trusted that many persons in the Colony will be found ready to subscribe towards the increased capital desired, both for their own benefit, and for that of the community generally.

The General Managers are ready and willing to enter into any reasonable agreement desired by the Company to continue their services for a lengthy period. Also, if desired by the Company, they are fully prepared to transfer the control to a Board of Directors, comprised of such persons who are in a position to introduce business, as the Company thinks advisable.

The minimum subscription for the new shares now offered to the public, upon which the General Managers may proceed to allotment, is \$200,000.

Mr. C. BERNARD BROWN, of the firm of Messrs. LINSTEAD & DAVIS, Hongkong, is the Auditor of the Company.

A copy of this prospectus has been duly filed for registration with the Registrar of the Companies.

Application for Shares should be made to the Company's Bankers, or the office of the General Managers, where forms will be supplied.

GORDON & CO.,
General Managers.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 1917.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S
RESIGNATION.LORD HARDINGE'S OFFER TWICE
REFUSED.

A STRIKING DEBATE.

In the House of Commons on July 12th Sir F. E. Smith argued that it was absolutely impossible for the Government to act punitively on the report of the Mesopotamia Commission. He demonstrated conclusively that this would be a monstrous injustice to the officers and officials concerned, for they had been examined without any reference to the laws of evidence, and without having an opportunity of replying to the evidence of other witnesses or even of knowing what those witnesses had said. He blamed the Press for commenting on the Report as if definite charges had been brought against these people and the charges had been proved. Sir John Simon fully agreed that it would be an "intolerable wrong" to treat them as guilty, and Lord Hugh Cecil briefly interposed to make it clear that the Commission regarded themselves not as a court of criminal justice, but as a court of inquiry into administrative efficiency. The Attorney-General was about to illustrate by example and verse from the evidence the methods of the Commission in dealing with witnesses, when he was pulled up on a point of order. But it made no difference, for nearly everyone obviously agreed that it would be quite impossible to proceed to punishment on such a report.

There was no such unanimity, however, as to the tribunal chosen by the Government, and all the Attorney-General's elaborate pleading failed to reconcile the House to the proposed procedure under the Army Courts Inquiry Act of last year. Without going into technicalities, it appears (says *The Daily Telegraph*) that under that Act of procedure civil servants and civilians could only appear before the Court as witnesses. Their conduct would necessarily be reviewed in the process of reviewing the conduct of the Army officers, but they would come in *par accident*, so to speak, and not as the principals, which they obviously are. The House felt that this was not the right course to take, and when it was found that the terms of reference to the Court alluded only to Army officers, the proposal was doomed beyond hope of recovery. The Attorney-General was evidently aware that sharp criticism was coming, said that the House decide between that course and the only feasible alternative, viz. the setting up by Act of Parliament of a Special Tribunal, to deal alike with soldiers and civilians on an equal footing. And, later in the sitting, Mr. Balfour announced that he had the Prime Minister's authority to say that that course would be adopted. Thus the absurdity of taking the Barrett case of last year as a precedent for an inquiry of this magnitude will happily be avoided.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN DEFENDS HIMSELF.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech was a powerful one and made a big impression on the House. For he was able to show that the Commissioners had omitted passages of first-class importance from some of the telegrams, quoted in their report, which have had the greatest effect on public opinion. In one instance particularly he filled up a gap which the public had naturally interpreted as veiling an allusion to the Dardanelles by a reference to German intrigues in Persia. Indeed, the Commissioners themselves, apparently, ought to stand in the dock for the crudity of their work in certain passages. Then, without casting a word of criticism upon the military officers concerned, Mr. Chamberlain made good his statement that all the military opinion at the disposal of the Government was in favour of an advance from Kut to Baghdad, and success was considered certain by every military authority consulted. The Turkish reinforcements which turned the scale at the Battle of Ctesiphon arrived only on the day of the battle itself. Not a word was said in excuse of "the horrible breakdown" in hospital arrangements, but Mr. Chamberlain told the House that sixteen months ago he had prophesied "a lamentable and inexcusable breakdown." His warnings, however, had not been attended to. He had communicated his fears to Lord Hardinge, but the Viceroy's greatest fault was that he had trusted too implicitly his chief military adviser.

One very noticeable feature of the debate was the warmth of the tributes paid by the leading speakers to several of those whose conduct had been most severely impugned. Lord Hardinge's public services were eulogised not only by Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Montagu, but also by Sir Mark Sykes, who contributed, as usual, one of the best speeches, and spoke with great personal feeling, as he deprecated indulgence in anger and revenge. General Nixon also found a stout defender in Mr. Montagu. Sir William Bampfie was championed by Sir Henry Craik, who threw the blame of the medical breakdown on the cheese-paring policy of Sir William Meyer. But ferocious economy is an old story in connection with Indian medical administration. To make sure of getting a teaspoonful of anything the only way has been to press for a gallon. Lord Hardinge was described by Mr. Montagu as "the most popular Viceroy of recent years"; Mr. Chamberlain said that it would be an evil day if he were hounded out of public life at the bidding of "an ignorant and passionate mob."

INDIAN REFORM NEEDED.

Another speech of which due note must be taken—though it threatened to switch off the debate on to quite another set of rails—was that in which Mr. Montagu declared that the time had come for a thorough remodeling of the whole system of Indian Administration. "The old statute-ridden machinery of India," as

THE AFFAIR AT NIEUPORT
A NEW SECTOR.

DUNES AND FLOODS.

The Times Military Correspondent, writing in July, said:—

War is an affair full of surprises, and in a war of this character we must not take it too tragically when the enemy scores a little point against us. The dunes sector north of Nieuport is one only recently taken over by us from the French, and our people are necessarily less well acquainted with its characteristics than they are with other sectors which they have long occupied. This sector is in ordinary times fairly safe, but on Tuesday last a heavy gale was blowing on the coast, and we must suppose that naval troops were temporarily absent. Our troops in possession of the dunes sector were therefore thrown upon their own resources when the enemy, after a violent bombardment of 24 hours, not only levelled the local defences, but broke the bridges over the Yser and probably over the Lombaertzyde stream as well.

We have always admitted that any Army making adequate preparations can gain possession for a time of almost any advanced system of trenches, and the enemy opposing us on the coast line of Belgium was and is in a peculiarly favourable position to bring off a coup of this character, on account of his coast batteries. These extend all along the dunes, and for him to switch them on to any dunes sector, or to any other point within range, is a comparatively simple matter. We have suffered on many occasions from this heavy armament, but in this particular instance greater success was obtained than usual because the breaking up of the bridges, and probably the barraging of the south and south-west fronts of the advanced position occupied, rendered a retirement impracticable. Attacked by strong forces and with their defences levelled, our troops were not in a position to resist, and the German figure of our losses may not be very far from the truth.

The repulse of the enemy further south at Lombaertzyde after a preliminary success appears to show that the whole incident is without much importance, and a German detachment between British troops to the south and the sea to the north can be satisfied that its position is somewhat cheerless. The enemy has shown himself for some time past to be anxious about the Yser front, and many advertisements have appeared in the German Press of our intention to attack there. It was natural, therefore, that he should wish to have a closer look to see what our troops were doing, and to hold the right bank of the river near its confluence with the sea if he could.

All this low country position east of the Yser and south of the dunes has a character of its own. It is, on a broad zone south of the dunes, and along most of the rivers and canals if the preparations have been made, subject to inundations, scientific and unscientific. The scientific inundation has been brought to the highest state of perfection by the Dutch, whose engineers work with the department known as the Waterstaat to produce military obstacles of an extremely formidable kind. Their practice is to arrange the fresh-water sluices so that belts of inundations can be made within a few hours. These are of no great depth, but as the low country is usually scored with ditches and channels for irrigation, a sheet of water a few feet in depth is quite enough to form a belt difficult to cross without special preparations.

We must naturally assume that the enemy, long in possession of the tracts liable to inundation, has arranged for their scientific flooding, and most of the campaigns in the Low Countries show how very unpleasant such inundations were even when the science was less perfect than to-day. The best of all courses to pursue with typical low country positions is to keep away from them and fight some where else if one happens to be the assailant, for a defender has the best of the deal throughout the game. The dunes, however, are a separate problem, and the question of sea power naturally enters into it. We have had much dune fighting, notably in 1799, and very stiff it usually is with a hard-fighting enemy to deal with. Flanders is, of course, not all a low country position by any means, but most of this country is not particularly suitable to the *beau sabreur*, and one would select preferably, if one could not keep out of such a district, a middle-aged engineer who has heard of the Amsterdam Pile and all that begins with it, and has a weakness for meticulous staff work.

he called it, had been tested by the war and found wanting. It must not, he said, continue to exist. The India Office was a perfect "apotheosis of circumspection and red-tape beyond the dreams of any critic"; the Executive of India had broken down utterly, and the only way to repair it was to render it more responsible to the people of India. When challenged as to his ultimate goal, Mr. Montagu said that he had visions not of a single system of Home Rule for India but of "a series of self-governing provinces and principalities, with a federated control." This was travelling far afield from Mesopotamia, but events may soon show that it was not so remote from the question at issue as may at first sight appear. And Mr. Chamberlain himself told the House that the Government of India had sent home a suggested scheme of reform.

It fell, as has been said, to Mr. Balfour to make the expected announcement that the Government were ready to accept the alternative of a Special Tribunal, set up by special Act of Parliament, and he addressed himself to the congenial task of smoothing matters down. He agreed that it was natural that public opinion should be excited by the publication of such a report by a Royal Commission, but indignation should never exceed strict justice, and there was a danger of the public being rushed over "the cataract" and committing acts of gross injustice. So he had refused to accept Lord Hardinge's twice offered resignation, and, while he admired the spirit of Mr. Chamberlain's action, he profoundly dissented from it.

NAVAL DECORATIONS.

LORD BERESFORD ON THE
INEQUALITY OF AWARDS.

In the House of Lords recently, Lord Beresford asked on what principle orders and decorations were granted with reference to the number of officers and men in the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Forces mentioned in dispatches; and for other information on the subject of awards. He declared that there was intense feeling in the country relative to the honours that had been given lately. Potentians, escaped scot free after blunders and mistakes, and indeed were often rewarded, whilst the soldier and sailor received the blame and was punished. In all campaigns there were complaints about the inequality of honours and awards, but in this war these complaints were more justified than in any other war. In the whole history of the Navy there had, he supposed, never been more opportunity for heroic action than in Gallipoli. He complained of the unfairness of the Admiralty scale in such a campaign. It only added of about 31 awards and 100 mentions in dispatches. The reason in regard to mentions in dispatches was most unfair. That only one in 200 could be mentioned in six months appeared to him perfectly monstrous. The way in which honours, awards, and mentions in dispatches had been handled had caused great disgust throughout the Fleet.

Their lordships would be astonished to learn the number of awards given to the men. Only one man of the seaman class from the lower deck who was in that battle received a commission, officer's rank, and three others of another class received awards. The lower deck felt it to be a great grievance that civilians had entered quite recently over the heads of petty officers of long service and three years' experience of war. In the Battle of Jutland 200 boys under the age of 18 years were killed or wounded. Those boys gave their lives or risked their lives for us, and the rule under which service rendered while under the age of 18 should not count for pensions on leaving the Service was unjust. Of three men who faced an appalling death in the engine-room of a destroyer and by their courage, one of them saved the vessel and the lives of the crew of from 70 to 80 hands, only one received the Distinguished Service Order. Such treatment was not right. (Cheers.) He suggested that an Admiralty should be authorized to bestow a decoration immediately after the deed in respect of which it was given had been performed. The bestowal of a decoration at the moment would be gratifying to the Service. The whole system of awarding orders and decorations needed overhauling. Honour should be given to whom honour was due, and the authorities should cease giving decorations to those who ought to be severely punished. There had been cases in which those in command, either through mistaken ideas, negligence, or want of knowledge, had lost hundreds of lives. Those officers had been given other commands, in many cases higher than before. They ought to have been placed upon half-pay and not employed again.

Lord Sudley, as an old naval officer, supported Lord Beresford's remarks. The Earl of Lytton said the whole subject was entirely in the hands of the First Lord of the Admiralty. In exercising the duty that Minister was guided by two main principles. Cases of individual acts of gallantry which were performed in the course of any particular action were immediately brought under review, and the decorations which in the opinion of the First Lord were deserved were granted as soon as possible after they had been reported and examined. In this matter he acted upon the advice of his naval secretary, and he was under no limitation of any kind. The second category consisted of decorations for what he would call general services at sea extending over a long period and quite distinct from specific operations such as those he had alluded to. With regard to this a report was called for from the Commander-in-Chief every six months and rewards were made by the Admiralty from the lists which were received from him periodically. The object which the Admiralty had in view was to establish as far as possible some uniform standard of merit. Some officers might have very different standards as to what persons and what numbers of officers and men should be included in a list for decorations. It was obvious that some standard of uniformity might be given on a more liberal scale for a minor operation than for a more important operation. The Admiralty alone was able to review the whole operations of the war and maintain a uniform standard. If honours were to be worth having it was necessary to maintain a high standard of giving them. For these reasons decorations were subject to the review of the Admiralty. If it was thought desirable that the list received from the Commander-in-Chief should be curtailed, the reductions were sent back to the Commander-in-Chief for his consideration. The decorations given for the Gallipoli operations were on a far more generous scale than that adopted with regard to any other naval operations during the war. At the same time he readily admitted that the Gallipoli operations were of a unique and unprecedented character. It was quite possible that their very special features might not have been fully recognized. The suggestion that boys who had been in action should be allowed to have the time spent by them at sea counted as a man's time when pension came to be considered would, he had no doubt, receive consideration. The total number of awards to officers of the naval forces during the war was 1,264; naval decorations in other ranks numbered 2,077. It was not the policy of the Admiralty to promote ratings from the lower deck to the rank of commissioned officer merely on account of bravery, as other qualifications also were required in an officer. The number of men made mates since the beginning of the war was 213, as well as 15 engineer ratings. Up to the time of the beginning of hostilities only 64 men had ever been given the rank of mate as a channel to becoming a commissioned officer.

AN AMARA ALPHABET.

FROM THE ARABIC (I DON'T THINK).

By WUNSTAN GROUSER, L.E.F. (1916).

A is the Apple that grew, so they say, In that famous old garden where Eve went astray (For whose peccadillo we still had to pay) Near Kurra, in Mesopotamia.

B is the Biscuit constructed in Delhi; Which, served without marmalade, butter, or jelly, and a boiler-plate interior For digestion in Mesopotamia.

C for our Comrades of that famous Corps Which, ploughing and reaping, and fighting no more, Is now telling its friends how it poured out its gore In France and in Mesopotamia.

D for the Diggings we've all of us done While fighting the friend of the furious Hun; You earn *chota hazi* by shifting a ton Of *Atuti*, in Mesopotamia.

E was the Energy shown by the Staff In preparing for HANNA, that advertised strafe; I regret to record that the Turks had the laugh—Not the Staff in Mesopotamia.

F is the Fokker that quarters the sky—Who'd have thought that a "Tucki" would know how to fly? The shells from our Archies are passing him by, And falling in Mesopotamia.

G is the Grazing our beasts do all day; Perhaps, if we're good, in the future we may be "issued" again with a ration of hay, Although we're in Mesopotamia.

H for the Harours for which, it appears, Baghdad has been famous for hundreds of years, We propose to adopt all the desolate dears When their owners leave Mesopotamia.

I stands for India, its Government—but On this subject my mouth is officially sufficed; it to say, we surrendered at Kut—At Amara in Mesopotamia.

J for the Jan with the label that lies When it claims that at Paris it won the first prize, We find it most useful as bait for the flies So abundant in Mesopotamia.

K for the Kisses we'll get from the Fair When arriving in England with wreaths in our hair—We shall need them, I think, for our heads will be bare By the time we leave Mesopotamia.

L for the Loot we are longing to seize, Such as barrels of whisky and bags of rupees, In Baghdad, when the Cadi hands over the keys, To the Army in Mesopotamia.

M is the local Mosquito, whose bite Keeps us fever and active by night And makes of our faces an elegant sight Since we landed in Mesopotamia.

N is the Navy tied up to the shore, Where they've beer and tobacco and comforts galore, What a juggins I was not to join it before I started for Mesopotamia!

O for the Orders which, issued by Corps Headquarters, don't secure me as much as of yore; If we get them at three, they'll be cancelled by four; That's business, in Mesopotamia.

P for the Post Office Babus who fail, Each week, to deliver three-fourths of the Mail; If I had the command, they would all be in jail, Instead of in Mesopotamia.

Q for Quinine, which we take every day By the jugful, to keep naughty fever away; With a head like a beehive it's hard to feel gay In malarial Mesopotamia.

R is for Rations—but see under "B" There is biscuit for breakfast and biscuit for tea And a tot once a week, when we go on the spree, Economical Mesopotamia!

S & T for the fellows who somehow Amid groaning and cursing and hurry and some wonderful fashion to keep us alive In defiance of Mesopotamia.

U stands for the puddle they call Umm-el-Brahim Which guards one of our flanks from all possible harm, And irrigates Gorrings's nice little farm In the middle of Mesopotamia.

V was the Victory won at DEHAIA—I heard of it first from a credulous sailor Who'd read it in *Reuter* aboard his MEHALA On the Tigris, in Mesopotamia.

W stands for the Wonder and pain With which we regard the Indian and Brass hats who from India have botched the campaign; Unfortunate Mesopotamia!

X for the Extras the Staff say we get, But, so far, there isn't a unit I've met That admits being "issued" with one of them yet Since landing in Mesopotamia.

Y is the Yearning we feel every day For a passage to *Basra*, and further His Majesty's enemies elsewhere to slay—Elsewhere than in Mesopotamia.

Z After much cogitation, I finally hit On a verse that this letter quite neatly would fit, But the Censor, who's jealous, deleted it—Save the blessed word—MESOPOTAMIA. *Rangoon Times.*

"HOW TO HURTLE."

(1) Grip you pen AT THE POINT OF
BALANCE AND IMMEDIATELY
COME TO THE SLOPE, TAKING
YOUR OWN TIME.

(2) Fill in the application form appended
below with your name and address and
whatever amount you can afford (always
remembering that "HURLING" is not
a donation but a monthly investment)
AND COME TO THE ORDER.

(3) Obtain scissors, or other suitable edged
implement, and UNFIX the form.

(4) Place the form in an envelope (IT'S
SCABBARD?) not forgetting to enclose

your note or cheque and address it to:—

The Union Insurance Society of Canton,

Ltd., Hon. Secretaries and Treasurers of

the Hongkong and South China War

Savings Association.

(5) Dispatch the envelope and STAND

EASY.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.,

Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers,

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION,

Queen's Building, Hongkong.

I enclose {Cheque
Notes to the value of \$.....

and shall be glad if you will enrol me as a

member of the Hongkong and South China

War Savings Association, by the rules of which

I hereby agree to abide.

Signature.....

Address

INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

Regular service via through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Natal), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

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Regular Direct Service from JAPAN, CHINA and STRAITS to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN, calling at MAURITIUS en route, and affording the Quickest Freight Transport from the ORIENT to SOUTH AFRICA.

For particulars of sailings shippers are requested to apply to the undersigned.

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Madagascar Agents.

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(ELLERMAN & ECKHALL STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.)

JAPAN, CHINA AND STRAITS

TO
UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Cape of Good Hope at Owners' option.
Subject to change without notice.

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THE BANK LINE, LIMITED.
General Agents.

C. N. C.
CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	"YINGHOW"	On 9th Sept, 11 A.M.
WAIKONG	"KAIFONG"	On 11th Sept, 11 A.M.
WUHAIR and TIENTSIN	"HUICHOW"	On 11th Sept, 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"CHENAN"	On 11th Sept, 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 11th Sept, 4 P.M.

DIRECT SAILINGS TO WEST RIVER, Twice Weekly.
S.S. "LINTAN" and S.S. "BANUL"

MANILA LINE—TWIN-SCREW STEAMERS. Excellent Saloon accommodation. Amidships; Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms.

SHANGHAI LINE—PASSENGERS, MAILS and CARGO. Excellent Saloon accommodation, Amidships; Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

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Agents

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

REGULAR SERVICE of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for First Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in staterooms and Saloons and Excellent cuisine.

FOR

SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHOW
AND RETURN.

(Occupying 9 to 18 Days).

"HAIKON" ... Capt. A. E. Hodgins ... FRIDAY, 7th Sept. at Noon.
"HAIHONG" ... Capt. J. W. Evans ... FRIDAY, 14th Sept. at Noon.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Elsie Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to—

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APCAR LINE.

REGULAR SERVICE BETWEEN

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The above Steamers have excellent Saloon accommodation for Passengers and are fitted with all modern conveniences and carry a fully qualified surgeon.

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Steamers	Leave Hong Kong	Connecting Mail	Due at Marseilles	Due at London
COLOMBO	11th Sept	Str. from Colombo	1917	1917

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.

Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GORDON & DODD, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.
For Further Information, Passage Fares, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

E. V. D. PARR.
Superintendent.

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via KEELUNG, SHANGHAI ... Capt. Noma ... 12,500 tons.
MOJI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI ... INABA MARU ... MONDAY, 8th Sept. at Noon.
SHIMIDZU and YOKOHAMA ... Capt. Higo ... 12,500 tons.

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TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE.

CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG and RANGOON.

BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA and COLOMBO.

KOBE ... NIKKO MARU ... SUNDAY, 23rd Sept. at 11 A.M.
Capt. Takeda ... 9,600 tons.
KIRIN MARU ... THURSDAY, 20th Sept.
Capt. ... 1,000 tons.
FUSHIMI MARU ... SATURDAY, 22nd Sept. at 11 A.M.
Capt. Iizawa ... 11,000 tons.
HIRANO MARU ... TUESDAY, 25th Sept. at 11 A.M.
Capt. Fraser ... 16,000 tons.
KAGA MARU ... SATURDAY, 10th Oct. at 11 A.M.
Capt. Komatsubara ... 12,500 tons.

TOTOMI MARU ... SUNDAY, 9th Sept.
Capt. Kamada ... 8,000 tons.
RANGOON MARU ... SATURDAY, 32nd Sept.
Capt. Goto ... 8,000 tons.

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PERSIA MARU	9,000	SATUR., 22nd Sept.
KOREA MARU	18,000	FRI., 5th Apr.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	MON., 15th Oct.
SENJO MARU	22,000	FRI., 25th Oct.
NIPPON MARU	11,000	SATUR., 10th Nov.

The s.s. "Nippon Maru" and s.s. "Persia Maru" omit call at Shanghai

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For full information as to rates, sailings, etc., apply to—

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King's Building.

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SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI,
MOJI, KOBE, and YOKOHAMA.
(TRANS-PACIFIC).

"MEXICO MARU" ... FRIDAY, 14th Sept. at Noon.
"HAWAII MARU" ... WED. DAY, 26th Sept. at Noon.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling Auckland, N. Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Massawa. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING
PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Anping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"KAIJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 9th Sept. at Noon.
"SUSHO MARU" ... THURSDAY, 13th Sept. at 10 A.M.
"JOSHIN MARU" ... THURSDAY, 13th Sept. at 10 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbor Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 76 will be fixed.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

M. HIGUCHI, Manager.
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